## Greenwood's Guide to Adding and Subtracting Fractions with Like Denominators

Fractions are a fundamental part of mathematics and are used in various real-world applications. Understanding how to add and subtract fractions with like denominators is essential for students to progress in their mathematical journey. This article will provide a comprehensive explanation of the concept, step-by-step instructions, and plenty of practice problems for students to master this skill.

The denominator of a fraction represents the number of equal parts into which a whole has been divided. When two fractions have the same denominator, they are said to have like denominators.

For example, in the fractions $1 / 4$ and $2 / 4$, the denominator 4 indicates that the whole has been divided into four equal parts.


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Language : English
File size : 11188 KB
Print length: 14 pages


To add fractions with like denominators, simply add the numerators (the numbers on top) and keep the denominator (the number on the bottom) the same.

## Step 1: Add the Numerators

Add the numerators of the fractions. For example:
$1 / 4+2 / 4=(1+2) / 4$

## Step 2: Keep the Denominator

The denominator remains the same.
$(1+2) / 4=3 / 4$

## Example:

Add the fractions $1 / 5$ and $2 / 5$ :
$1 / 5+2 / 5=(1+2) / 5=3 / 5$

Subtracting fractions with like denominators follows a similar process to addition. Simply subtract the numerators and keep the denominator the same.

## Step 1: Subtract the Numerators

Subtract the numerator of the second fraction from the numerator of the first fraction. For example:
$3 / 5-1 / 5=(3-1) / 5$

Step 2: Keep the Denominator

The denominator remains the same.
$(3-1) / 5=2 / 5$

## Example:

Subtract the fractions $2 / 7$ from 4/7:
$4 / 7-2 / 7=(4-2) / 7=2 / 7$

## Addition:

1. Add the fractions $1 / 3$ and $2 / 3$.
2. Find the sum of $4 / 5$ and $1 / 5$.
3. Add the fractions $3 / 8,1 / 8$, and $2 / 8$.

## Subtraction:

1. Subtract the fractions $5 / 6$ from $2 / 6$.
2. Find the difference between $4 / 9$ and 1/9.
3. Subtract the fractions $3 / 10$ from $7 / 10$.

Adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators is a fundamental skill in mathematics. By understanding the concept of like denominators and following the step-by-step instructions outlined in this article, students can confidently solve these types of problems. Regular practice and a strong understanding of this skill will pave the way for success in more advanced mathematical concepts.


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