Same-Size Pieces!

Adding fractions with unlike denominators



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Today we will...



WE ARE LEARNING TO

- Add fractions with unlike denominators
- Subtract fractions and mixed numbers too

SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

- ✓ I can rename to equivalent fractions with like denominators
- ✓ I can add, subtract, simplify and check my answer

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Key words

unlike denominators

different bottom numbers, different piece sizes

common denominator

same bottom number shared by fractions

equivalent fractions

same value, looks different

mixed number

a whole and a fraction together

simplify

make with smallest numbers

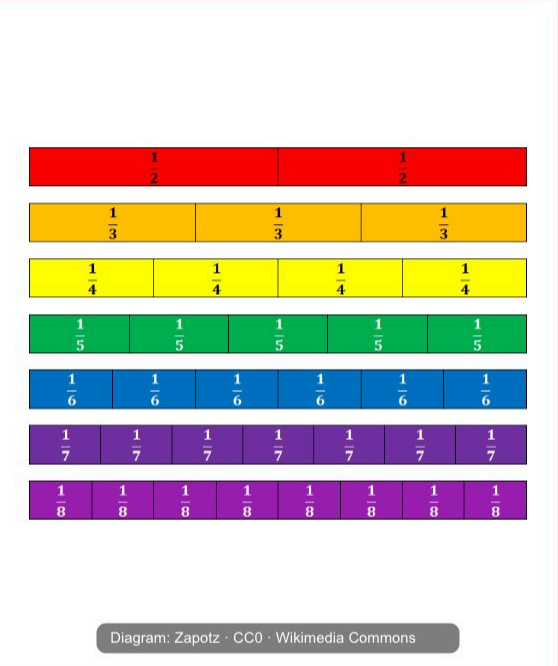
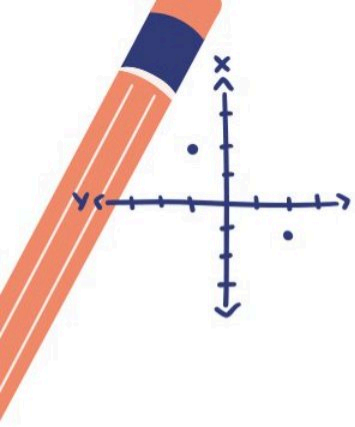


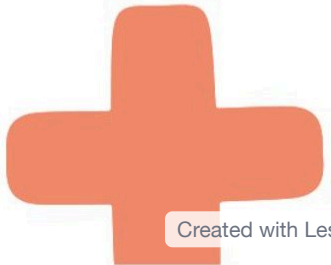
Diagram: Zapotz · CC0 · Wikimedia Commons

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Why we rename first

Bottoms differ, so pieces differ → Find a common denominator → Make equivalent fractions → Add or subtract tops, keep bottom → Simplify and estimate to check



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Which way helps you most?

Which way to find a common denominator helps you most?

A. List multiples to find least common one

B. Multiply the two denominators

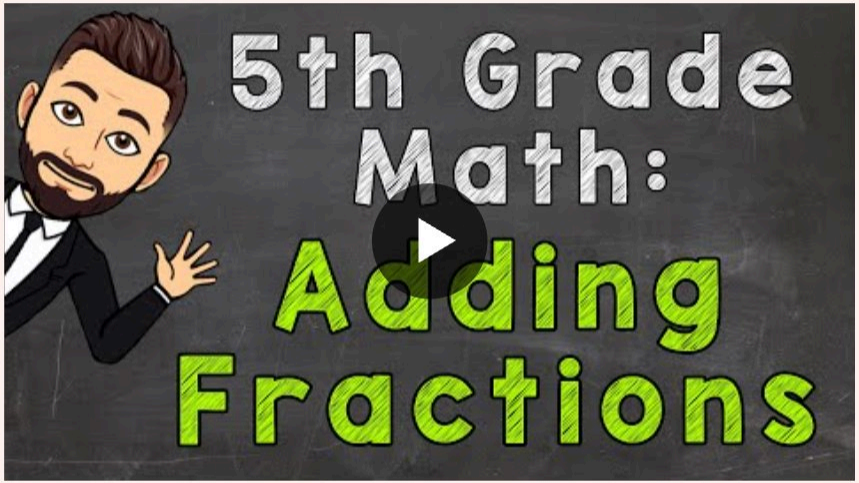
C. Draw strips or circles first



Vote with your hands, then explain why.

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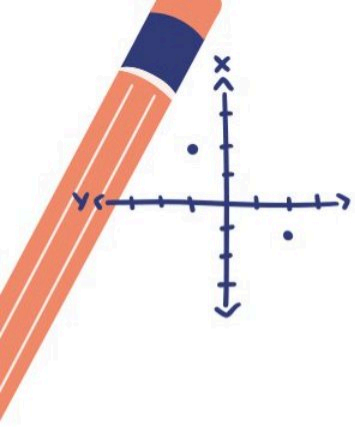
Watch: halves meet thirds



▶ 0:00 – 4:50

- Spot how pieces become same size
- Listen for top and bottom times same number

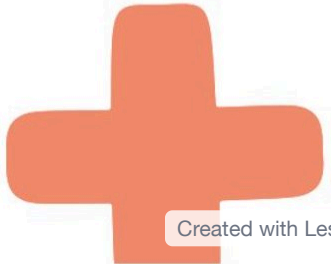
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Our adding toolkit

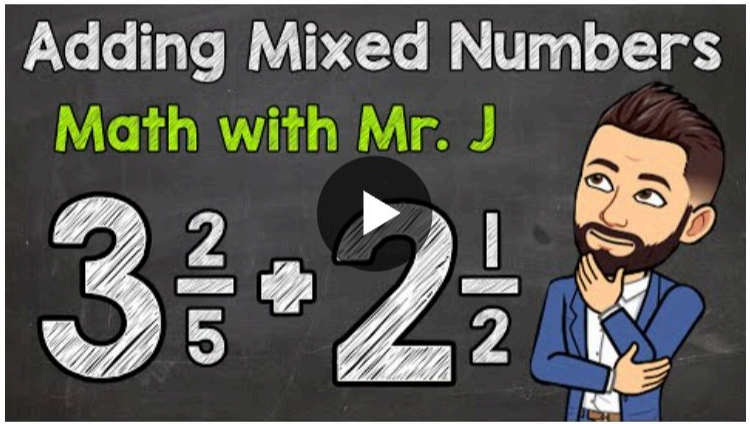
Like denominators

- Find least common denominator
- Add tops, keep bottom
- Simplify or make mixed number
- Multiply top and bottom same
- Subtract tops, keep bottom
- Estimate with 0, 1/2, 1



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Watch: mixed numbers too



▶ 0:00 – 4:40

- See wholes and fractions split apart
- Watch renaming, then adding wholes

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Your task

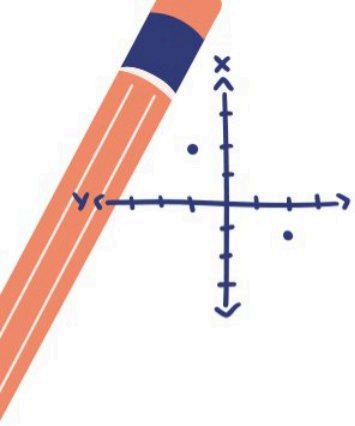
Solve with a partner: 1/2+1/3, 3/4-1/3, 2 1/4+1 1/2, 3 1/2-1 1/4. Show renaming.

1. Draw strips or list multiples for common bottom
2. Write equivalent fractions, then add or subtract tops
3. Simplify and estimate: does answer make sense?

10 min

In pairs

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BIG IDEA

You can only add same-size pieces, so rename first, then add or subtract.

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Think, pair, share

A student says 2/5 + 1/2 = 3/7. How do you know that cannot be right?



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Quick quiz

1. 1/3 + 1/2 = ?
2. 3/4 - 1/3 = ?
3. 2 1/4 + 1 1/2 = ?
4. True or false: 2/5 + 1/2 = 3/7?

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