



Adding & Subtracting Fractions

KEY IDEA

To add or subtract fractions, they must share a common denominator. Find the least common denominator, rewrite each fraction using it, then add or subtract the numerators and keep the denominator the same. Always simplify the result to lowest terms.

How to do it

1. Find the least common denominator (LCD) of the two fractions.
2. Rewrite each fraction as an equivalent fraction with the LCD as its denominator.
3. Add or subtract the numerators only — the denominator does not change.
4. Simplify the answer to lowest terms.

Worked examples

Example 1. $\frac{1}{4} - \frac{2}{10} = \frac{1}{20}$

Example 2. $\frac{1}{5} + \frac{2}{4} = \frac{7}{10}$

Example 3. $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{9}{10}$

Example 4. $\frac{4}{5} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{10}$





Adding & Subtracting Fractions

Directions: Add or subtract. Give each answer in lowest terms.

1. $\frac{5}{9} - \frac{2}{5}$	2. $\frac{1}{5} - \frac{2}{12}$	3. $\frac{2}{4} - \frac{3}{9}$
4. $\frac{4}{8} - \frac{4}{6}$	5. $\frac{2}{9} - \frac{11}{12}$	6. $\frac{1}{5} - \frac{3}{4}$
7. $\frac{7}{10} - \frac{2}{12}$	8. $\frac{8}{10} - \frac{3}{5}$	9. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{6}{8}$
10. $\frac{4}{6} - \frac{1}{6}$	11. $\frac{1}{5} + \frac{2}{4}$	12. $\frac{3}{12} + \frac{1}{9}$
13. $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{6}$	14. $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{7}{10}$	15. $\frac{4}{12} + \frac{10}{12}$
16. $\frac{1}{3} - \frac{5}{9}$	17. $\frac{3}{6} - \frac{4}{8}$	18. $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{2}{6}$
19. $\frac{2}{8} + \frac{1}{2}$	20. $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{3}{4}$	21. $\frac{3}{10} - \frac{5}{6}$
22. $\frac{2}{3} - \frac{8}{9}$	23. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{3}{4}$	24. $\frac{3}{8} - \frac{5}{9}$
25. $\frac{3}{5} - \frac{3}{6}$	26. $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{5}{10}$	27. $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{5}$
28. $\frac{2}{5} - \frac{2}{4}$	29. $\frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{12}$	30. $\frac{3}{6} - \frac{1}{6}$
31. $\frac{2}{6} - \frac{3}{6}$	32. $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{6}$	33. $\frac{4}{5} + \frac{6}{9}$
34. $\frac{2}{5} - \frac{2}{3}$	35. $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{3}$	36. $\frac{4}{8} - \frac{4}{12}$

