Step 1: Understand Fractions

A fraction has two parts: the **numerator** (the top number) and the **denominator** (the bottom number). The numerator represents how many parts you have, and the denominator represents how many parts make a whole.

Step 2: Check the Denominators

When adding fractions, the first thing to check is if the denominators (the bottom numbers) are the same.

Example 1: Same Denominator

If you want to add **1/4 + 2/4**, both fractions have the same denominator (4). Just add the numerators:

- **1 + 2 = 3**

So, **1/4 + 2/4 = 3/4**.

Step 3: Finding a Common Denominator

Now, let's say the denominators are different, like **1/3 + 1/6**. You need to find a common denominator. The **least common denominator (LCD)** is the smallest number that is a multiple of both denominators (3 and 6).

Step 4: Convert the Fractions

The LCD of 3 and 6 is 6.

Now, convert **1/3** to have a denominator of 6:

- To change 1/3, multiply both the numerator and denominator by 2: **1 x 2 = 2** and **3 x 2 = 6**. So, **1/3 = 2/6**.

Your fractions are now **2/6 + 1/6**.

Step 5: Add the Fractions

Now that both fractions have the same denominator, simply add the numerators:

- **2 + 1 = 3**

So, **1/3 + 1/6 = 3/6**.

Step 6: Simplify the Fraction

You might need to simplify the fraction if possible. The fraction **3/6** can be simplified:

- Both 3 and 6 can be divided by 3: **3 ÷ 3 = 1** and **6 ÷ 3 = 2**.

That gives you **1/2**.

Final Tips

1. Always make sure your fractions have the same denominator before adding them.
2. If needed, simplify your answer at the end!