Adding and Subtracting Fractions

Adding and subtracting fractions might seem tricky at first, but with a little practice, you'll find it's really not that hard! Letâ€™s go through it step by step.

What is a Fraction?

A fraction represents a part of a whole. It has two parts: the **numerator** (the top number) and the **denominator** (the bottom number). For example, in the fraction **3/4**, 3 is the numerator and 4 is the denominator.

Adding Fractions

Same Denominator

When the denominators are the same, you just add the numerators:

Example:
Add **1/4 + 2/4**
Step 1: Keep the denominator the same (4).
Step 2: Add the numerators: 1 + 2 = 3.
The answer is **3/4**.

Different Denominators

When the denominators are different, you need to find a common denominator:

Example:
Add **1/3 + 1/6**
Step 1: Find a common denominator. The smallest number that both denominators (3 and 6) can divide into is 6.
Step 2: Change the fractions:
1/3 = 2/6 (because 1 x 2 = 2 and 3 x 2 = 6)
1/6 stays the same.
Step 3: Now add:
2/6 + 1/6 = 3/6.
Step 4: Simplify if needed. Here, 3/6 simplifies to 1/2.

Subtracting Fractions

Same Denominator

This is similar to adding:

Example:
Subtract **3/8 - 1/8**
Step 1: Keep the denominator (8).
Step 2: Subtract the numerators: 3 - 1 = 2.
The answer is **2/8**. This simplifies to **1/4**.

Different Denominators

Just like when adding fractions:

Example:
Subtract **2/5 - 1/10**
Step 1: Find a common denominator. (10 is the common denominator for 5 and 10).
Step 2: Change the fractions:
2/5 = 4/10.
Step 3: Subtract:
4/10 - 1/10 = 3/10.
The answer is **3/10**.

Practice Makes Perfect!

Try practicing with different sets of fractions, and pay attention to when you need to adjust the denominators. Soon, youâ€™ll be able to add and subtract fractions with confidence!