

# What is an Improper Fraction?

Hi Bailey! Let's break down what improper fractions are. An improper fraction is a type of fraction where the top number (called the numerator) is larger than or equal to the bottom number (called the denominator).

## Let's look at an example:

Imagine you have the fraction  $\frac{7}{4}$ . Here, 7 is the numerator and 4 is the denominator. Since 7 is greater than 4, this fraction is considered improper.

## Why do we use Improper Fractions?

Improper fractions can show things that are greater than 1 whole. For instance, if you have 7 pieces of chocolate and you want to share them equally among 4 friends, each friend gets  $\frac{7}{4}$  of a piece, which is more than one whole piece!

## Converting Improper Fractions:

You might often want to convert improper fractions into mixed numbers, which are easier to understand. A mixed number combines a whole number and a fraction.

### For example:

To convert  $\frac{7}{4}$  into a mixed number, divide 7 by 4. The result is:

- $7 \div 4 = 1$  (This is the whole number part)
- The remainder is 3 (that's what's left over)

So,  $\frac{7}{4}$  can be written as  $1 \frac{3}{4}$  (which means 1 whole and 3 parts out of 4).

## Practice Makes Perfect!

Why not give it a try? Can you find out if the following fractions are improper?  $\frac{5}{3}$ ,  $\frac{2}{2}$ , and  $\frac{3}{5}$ ? Remember, if the numerator is greater than or equal to the denominator, it's an improper fraction!

## Wrapping Up

Improper fractions are great for showing amounts greater than one, and converting them into mixed numbers can make them easier to work with. Keep practicing, and you'll be a pro at understanding fractions in no time!