

Subtracting Fractions

Subtracting fractions is very similar to adding fractions. Here's what to do:

How to Subtract Fractions

There are three steps to subtracting fractions correctly:

1. Make sure the denominator is the same on both fractions
2. Subtract the numerators, then put the answer on top of the denominator (don't subtract the denominators)
3. Simplify the fraction if possible

Example 1:

$$\frac{7}{8} - \frac{3}{8}$$

The denominator is already the same in this example, so we can move straight to the second step, which is subtracting the numerators.

$$\frac{7}{8} - \frac{3}{8} = \frac{4}{8}$$

The final step is to simplify our answer. Remember, to simplify a fraction, you need to divide both the numerator and the denominator by the same (highest possible) number.

In this question, we can divide both the numerator and the denominator by 4.

$$\frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$$

Example 2:

$$\frac{8}{12} - \frac{1}{3}$$

This time, the denominators are different, so we need to make them the same. We can do this by dividing both the top and bottom of the first fraction by 4.

$$\frac{8}{12} \div 4 = \frac{2}{3}$$

Now that both our denominators are the same, we can move on to the second step, which is subtracting our numerators.

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{3}$$

We can't simplify this fraction, so $\frac{1}{3}$ is our final answer.

Now have a go at some of these yourself on the next page!



Subtracting Fractions

Complete the questions below. Remember that you can reread the instructions on the previous page if you get stuck!

Section 1:

a. $\frac{3}{5} - \frac{2}{5} = \underline{\quad}$

b. $\frac{18}{21} - \frac{4}{21} = \underline{\quad}$

c. $\frac{12}{18} - \frac{3}{18} = \underline{\quad}$

d. $\frac{6}{9} - \frac{2}{9} = \underline{\quad}$

e. $\frac{5}{7} - \frac{3}{7} = \underline{\quad}$

f. $\frac{13}{20} - \frac{8}{20} = \underline{\quad}$

Section 2:

g. $\frac{14}{20} - \frac{2}{5} = \underline{\quad}$

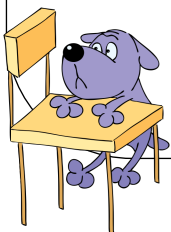
h. $\frac{2}{3} - \frac{3}{15} = \underline{\quad}$

i. $\frac{11}{12} - \frac{2}{4} = \underline{\quad}$

j. $\frac{5}{9} - \frac{4}{18} = \underline{\quad}$

k. $\frac{18}{25} - \frac{2}{5} = \underline{\quad}$

l. $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{10} = \underline{\quad}$



Answers

a. $\frac{1}{5}$

b. $\frac{2}{3}$

c. $\frac{1}{2}$

d. $\frac{4}{9}$

e. $\frac{2}{7}$

f. $\frac{1}{4}$

g. $\frac{3}{10}$

h. $\frac{7}{15}$

i. $\frac{5}{12}$

j. $\frac{1}{3}$

k. $\frac{8}{25}$

l. $\frac{1}{5}$