

Adding and Subtracting Fractions

This video is going to explain how to add and subtract fractions.

On the right of the screen is the step by step process we are going to follow. To add or subtract fractions, the denominators need to be the same. Taking $\frac{4}{7}$ plus $\frac{8}{21}$ as our example, we are going to find the common denominator. We find the first few multiples of each, and we find that 21 is common. So we keep $\frac{8}{21}$ the same, 7 needs to be multiplied by 3 to get to 21. We need to do the same to our numerator. 4 multiplied by 3 is 12, so we have $\frac{12}{21}$ plus $\frac{8}{21}$, which equals $\frac{20}{21}$. We can't simplify so this is our final answer.

When subtracting, note the only change to our process is we subtract not add. $\frac{5}{7}$ take away $\frac{3}{6}$. Again, we find the common denominator. Sometimes, you might have to work out more multiples until you find the common one, so here, our fractions are all going to be over 42. We multiplied 7 by 6, so we do the same to the top. 6 was multiplied by 7 so we do the same to the top here. Our answer of $\frac{9}{42}$ can be simplified by dividing both top and bottom by 3. Our answer $\frac{3}{14}$. Pause the video and have a try at these.

For further examples and explanations contact us by email, on our website or come into the library.