

Adding & Subtracting Rational Numbers

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Mathematics 9 Rational Numbers Adding & Subtracting Rational Numbers

A. Equivalent Rational Numbers

Equivalent rational numbers are fractions which have the same denominator. These are particularly useful when you are asked to compare rational numbers. **Remember to pay particular attention to the integer rules when working with the numbers.**

Put the original rational numbers in order from smallest to largest.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \frac{1 \times 8}{3 \times 8} & \frac{-5 \times 3}{8 \times 3} & \frac{-2 \times 8}{3 \times 8} & \frac{5 \times 4}{6 \times 4} & \frac{-3 \times 6}{4 \times 6} \\ \frac{8}{24} & \frac{-15}{24} & \frac{-16}{24} & \frac{20}{24} & \frac{-18}{24} \end{array}$$
$$\boxed{-\frac{3}{4}, -\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{5}{8}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{5}{6}}$$

B. Adding and Subtracting with the Same Denominator

When adding and subtracting you must have the same denominator.

$$\frac{4}{7} + \left(-\frac{2}{7}\right)$$
$$\frac{4}{7} + \frac{-2}{7} = \boxed{\frac{2}{7}}$$

C. Adding & Subtracting with Different Denominators

If the denominators are not the same you will need to find a common denominator and create equivalent fractions before adding or subtracting.

$$\left(\frac{-2}{5}\right) - \frac{1}{3}$$
$$\left(\frac{-2 \times 3}{5 \times 3}\right) + \left(\frac{-1 \times 5}{3 \times 5}\right)$$
$$\frac{-6}{15} + \frac{-5}{15} = \boxed{\frac{-11}{15}}$$

E. Practice Questions

$$1) -\frac{5}{9} + \frac{1}{9}$$

$$\frac{-5}{9} + \frac{1}{9} = \boxed{\frac{-4}{9}}$$

$$2) -\frac{6}{7} - \left(\frac{1}{7}\right)$$

$$\frac{-6}{7} + \frac{-1}{7} = \frac{-7}{7} = \boxed{-1}$$

$$3) -\frac{1^{\times 3}}{2^{\times 6}} + \frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{-3}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{-2 \div 2}{6 \div 2} = \boxed{\frac{-1}{3}}$$

$$4) \left(\frac{-2}{3}\right) - \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)$$

$$\frac{-2^{\times 4}}{3^{\times 4}} + \frac{-1^{\times 3}}{4^{\times 3}} = \frac{-8}{12} + \frac{-3}{12} = \boxed{\frac{-11}{12}}$$

$$5) \left(\frac{-5}{8}\right) - \left(\frac{1}{-3}\right)$$

$$\frac{-5^{\times 3}}{8^{\times 3}} + \frac{1^{\times 8}}{3^{\times 8}} = \frac{-15}{24} + \frac{8}{24} = \boxed{\frac{-7}{24}}$$

$$6) \left(\frac{-5}{-8}\right) - \left(\frac{-5}{-6}\right)$$

$$\frac{5}{8} - \frac{5}{6} = \frac{5^{\times 3}}{8^{\times 3}} + \frac{-5^{\times 4}}{6^{\times 4}} = \frac{15}{24} + \frac{-20}{24} = \boxed{\frac{-5}{24}}$$

Assignment : Adding & Subtracting Fractions Assignment

Name: _____

Adding & Subtracting Rational Numbers

1. $\frac{3}{9} + \frac{8}{27}$

2. $\frac{-3}{8} + \frac{1}{6}$

3. $\frac{2}{5} - \left(-\frac{3}{20}\right)$

4. $\left(\frac{-6}{9}\right) + \left(-\frac{5}{6}\right)$

5. $\frac{6}{7} - \frac{1}{28}$

6. $\frac{-7}{8} - \left(-\frac{3}{8}\right)$

7. $\frac{3}{10} - \frac{5}{8}$

8. $\frac{1}{7} - \frac{-9}{21}$

$$9. \left(\frac{-5}{-6}\right) + \left(\frac{-3}{4}\right)$$

$$10. \frac{4}{-6} - \frac{7}{12}$$

$$11. \left(\frac{-3}{32}\right) - \frac{5}{8}$$

$$12. \frac{4}{8} + \frac{7}{12}$$

$$13. \left(-\frac{5}{12}\right) - \frac{-9}{12}$$

$$14. \left(-\frac{6}{10}\right) - \frac{2}{3}$$

$$15. \left(\frac{-2}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{3}{-4}\right)$$

$$16. \frac{1}{5} - \left(-\frac{4}{7}\right)$$

Answers

1) $\frac{17}{27}$

2) $-\frac{5}{24}$

3) $\frac{11}{20}$

4) $-\frac{3}{2}$

5) $\frac{23}{28}$

6) $-\frac{1}{2}$

7) $-\frac{13}{40}$

8) $\frac{4}{7}$

9) $\frac{1}{12}$

10) $-\frac{5}{4}$

11) $-\frac{23}{32}$

12) $\frac{13}{12}$

13) $\frac{1}{3}$

14) $-\frac{19}{15}$

15) $-\frac{17}{12}$

16) $\frac{27}{35}$