# Adding And Subtracting Fractions Mathematics Readers - A Comprehensive Guide



Are you struggling to grasp the concept of adding and subtracting fractions? Do you find yourself puzzled by the complex calculations that involve these mathematical operations? Well, fear no more! In this comprehensive guide, we will take you through a step-by-step journey of understanding adding and subtracting fractions.

#### The Basics of Fractions

Before diving into adding and subtracting fractions, it is crucial to have a solid foundation in understanding the basics of fractions. A fraction consists of a

numerator and a denominator, separated by a horizontal line called a fraction bar. The numerator represents the number of equal parts being considered, while the denominator represents the total number of equal parts in a whole. For example, in the fraction 3/4, 3 is the numerator and 4 is the denominator.



### STEM: 3-D Printing: Adding and Subtracting Fractions (Mathematics Readers)

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#### **Adding Fractions with Like Denominators**

When adding fractions with like denominators, such as 1/4 + 2/4, the process is quite straightforward. Simply add the numerators together while keeping the denominator unchanged. In this example, the sum would be 3/4.

Let's take a closer look at a real-world scenario to understand this concept better. Imagine you have a pizza that is divided into 8 equal slices, and you eat 3 of them. Your friend also has a pizza divided into 8 slices but eats 2. To find out how many slices were eaten in total, you can add the two fractions: 3/8 + 2/8 = 5/8. Therefore, you and your friend ate a combined total of 5 out of the 8 slices.

#### **Adding Fractions with Unlike Denominators**

Adding fractions with unlike denominators, such as 2/3 + 1/4, requires a few additional steps. First, you need to find a common denominator. In this case, the least common denominator (LCD) between 3 and 4 is 12.

To make the fractions have the same denominators, you need to multiply the numerator and the denominator of each fraction by a factor that will result in the LCD.

For the first fraction, 2/3, multiplying by 4 will result in 8/12.

For the second fraction, 1/4, multiplying by 3 will result in 3/12.

Now that the fractions have the same denominator, you can simply add the numerators together while keeping the denominator unchanged: 8/12 + 3/12 = 11/12.

#### **Subtracting Fractions**

The process of subtracting fractions follows a similar concept to adding fractions with like or unlike denominators. The main difference is in the operation - instead of adding the numerators together, you subtract them to find the difference.

Let's say you have 3/4 and you need to subtract 1/4. Since the denominators are the same, subtract the numerators: 3/4 - 1/4 = 2/4. The resulting fraction can be simplified to 1/2.

#### **Common Mistakes to Avoid**

When dealing with adding and subtracting fractions, there are a few common mistakes that many people make. One of the most frequent errors is forgetting to find a common denominator when adding fractions with unlike denominators.

Always remember to find the least common denominator and adjust the fractions accordingly.

Another common mistake is incorrectly performing the calculations. Take your time and double-check your work to avoid errors in addition or subtraction.

#### **Practice Makes Perfect**

It's essential to practice adding and subtracting fractions regularly to improve your skills and gain confidence in these operations. You can find numerous online resources, worksheets, and interactive games that provide ample opportunities to practice these mathematical operations.

Adding and subtracting fractions may initially seem daunting, but with a solid understanding of the basics and regular practice, you can confidently tackle any fraction calculations that come your way. Remember to always find a common denominator when adding fractions with unlike denominators and triple-check your work to avoid common mistakes.

So go ahead, sharpen your skills, and conquer adding and subtracting fractions like a pro!



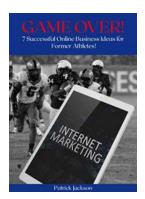
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Imagine printing a human heart with the click of a button. Sound impossible? Scientists and doctors are getting closer to transplanting human body parts made from 3-D printers. Read how doctors are using 3-D printers to change lives as you add and subtract fractions. By integrating math and literacy skills, this math reader focuses on STEM topics and makes learning fractions simple, relevant, and fun. Let's Explore Math sidebars, the extensive Problem Solving section, and the clear mathematical charts and diagrams provide numerous opportunities for students to practice what they have learned. The DOK-leveled Math Talk section includes questions that facilitate mathematical discourse and activities that students can respond to at school or home. With intriguing full-color images, the book includes text features such as a glossary, index, captions, and a table of contents to increase understanding and build academic vocabulary. The real-world examples of problem solving allow students to explore STEM concepts in meaningful ways. Practice adding and subtracting fractions with this engaging grade 4 math reader!



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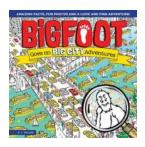
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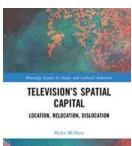
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