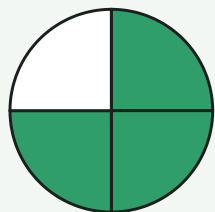


How Fractions Work

What a fraction means, and how to add and subtract fractions.

1. A fraction is equal parts of a whole



$$\frac{3}{4}$$

—— numerator: parts shaded

—— denominator: equal parts in the whole

The parts must be **equal**.
Three of four equal parts is three fourths.

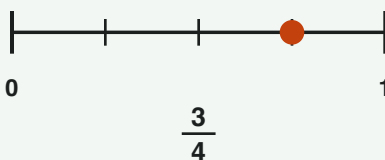
2. The same fraction, three ways

Part of a shape



$$\frac{3}{4}$$

Point on a number line



$$\frac{3}{4}$$

Part of a set



$\frac{3}{4}$ of 8 is 6

3. Bigger denominator, smaller pieces



$$\frac{1}{2}$$



$$\frac{1}{4}$$



$$\frac{1}{8}$$

Cut the same whole into more parts and each part gets smaller. **$\frac{1}{8}$ is less than $\frac{1}{4}$** , even though 8 is more than 4.

4. Adding and subtracting

Same denominator

$$\frac{2}{8} + \frac{3}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$$

Add the numerators. The denominator stays the same.

Different denominators

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$$

First rewrite them with a common denominator.

5. Going further

These sheets practice the ideas above. For equivalent fractions, comparing fractions, and improper fractions and mixed numbers, see the separate lesson pages at printablescholar.com/math-worksheets.