

## ADDING AND SUBTRACTING FRACTIONS

### What Is Adding and Subtracting Fractions with Unlike Denominators?

- Fractions can only be added or subtracted if the denominators are the same. For instance,  $\frac{7}{9} + \frac{1}{9} = \frac{8}{9}$  or  $\frac{11}{13} - \frac{6}{13} = \frac{5}{13}$
- In order to add or subtract two fractions with unlike denominators, one or more must be **changed to an equivalent fraction**.

To solve  $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{9}$ , first change  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{6}{9}$  by multiplying times  $\frac{3}{3}$  (which is 1). Then solve,  $\frac{6}{9} + \frac{1}{9}$ . The sum is  $\frac{7}{9}$ .

How to

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**PREVIEW**

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tors:

- Multiply each fraction by a fraction equal to one.

For example,  $\frac{5}{5}$  or  $\frac{3}{3}$  is equal to one, so the denominators are the same.

**The LCD for  $\frac{2}{3}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  is 12**

- Multiply  $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{4}{4} \rightarrow \frac{8}{12}$
- Multiply  $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{3} \rightarrow \frac{3}{12}$
- Add  $\frac{8}{12} + \frac{3}{12} = \frac{11}{12}$

- Just as you cannot add 6 oranges and 4 bananas and have 10 oranges/bananas, you cannot add  $7/9 + 2/10$  and have  $9/19$ .

**Note:** Only fractions with like denominators can be added or subtracted.

- Here are two examples:

○  $4/7 + 2/5 \rightarrow 20/35 + 14/35 = 34/35$

Change both denominators to 35.

○  $7/8 - 1/2 \rightarrow 7/8 - 4/8 = 3/8$

Change  $1/2$  to  $4/8$  because 2 is a factor of 8.

Try This



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$4/7 + 1/4 =$

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$7/8 - 2/7 =$

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