

## EQUIVALENT FRACTIONS

### What Are Equivalent Fractions?

- Equivalent fractions represent the same ratio between two values.
- Fractions show a ratio between two values. The fraction  $\frac{1}{2}$  represents 1 out of 2. If there were 2 students sharing an assignment, each would do part of the work. The work would be divided into 2 equal parts and each student would do 1 part or  $\frac{1}{2}$  the total project.
- The fraction  $\frac{1}{2}$  also represents part of a set. If there are 2 cookies in a set and one is eaten, then 1 out of 2 cookies is eaten. The relationship between the cookie eaten and the total number of cookies is 1 out of 2.

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- Like  $\frac{1}{2}$ , the number 1 has a multitude of equivalents:  $\frac{2}{2}$ ,  $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{10}{10}$ ,  $\frac{50}{50}$ . Whenever the numerator and denominator are the same numbers, the fraction is equivalent to one.

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

$$\frac{3}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{6}$$

$$\frac{6}{6} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{6}{12}$$

## How to calculate an equivalent fraction:

- To calculate an equivalent fraction, multiply the fraction by 1 or one of its equivalent fractions. Choose a number that when multiplied by the denominator will produce a sum that helps you solve a problem.
- For example:

$$1/5 = n/25$$

$$1/5 \times 5/5 = 5/25$$

$$n = 5$$



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which  
nple:

$$6/15 + 7/15 = 13/15$$

- Changing the denominator of  $2/5$  to 15 allows us to add the two fractions. This is accomplished by multiply  $2/5 \times 3/3$  which equals  $6/15$ , but using  $3/3$  (an equivalent of 1). Any fraction can be changed to an equivalent by multiplying times a fraction equivalent to 1.

## Try This!

1. What is an equivalent fraction for  $\frac{4}{5}$ ?

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2. What is the numerator for this equivalent fraction?  $\frac{5}{8} = \frac{n}{40}$

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3. A

4. V

5. A



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