

How to subtract fractions

Author: Thomas
Subtracting fractions with unlike denominators

By Thomas. C

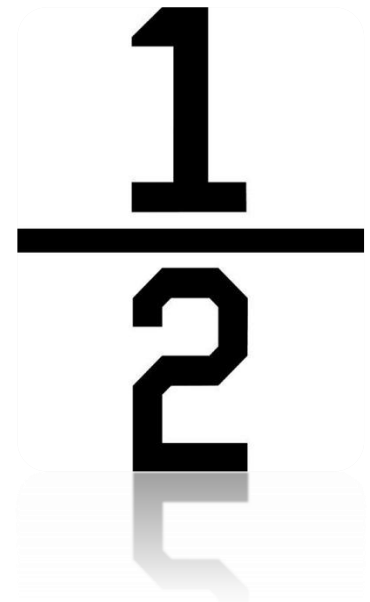
Subtracting fractions with the same denominator is easy; just subtract the two numerators and wham! You have the answer!

$$6/7 - 4/7 = 2/7$$

BUT what would you do if your denominators were different? Some give up and don't try it at all, some just guess and others try but still don't get the answer. Here is an easy step by step guide to do those irritating, I mean different denominators **AND** subtract them quickly, and easily.

Fraction

The first thing you will need to know is the numerator and the denominator. A way to remember the numerator is the **N for North**. For the denominator, the **D for Down**



Step One:

Find the lowest common denominator that both fractions can be divided into

E.g. $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{3}{7}$ the two both **divide equally** into 42.

Step Two

Make both of the denominators the same.

Tip: an easy way to find the lowest denominator is by using multiplication

E.g. $6 \times 7 = 42$

Step Three

Multiply the numerator by the same number that you multiplied the bottom number by.

Tip: an easy way to find the numerator is by multiplying the numerator by the opposite denominator.

E.g. $\frac{5}{6} \times$ both by 7 because that is you found the common denominator.

Step Four

Subtract the numerators

Step Five

Record your answer.

Step Six

Check to see if your answer can be simplified.

Tip: a fraction can only be simplified if both numerator and denominator are even.
