

Adding & Subtracting Fractions

When Two Fractions Have the Same Denominator

If the two fractions in the calculation have the same denominator, the denominator will stay the same. Then all you need to do is simply add or subtract the numerators to find the sum of the fractions.

$$\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{3}{5}$$

$$\frac{4}{8} - \frac{2}{8} = \frac{2}{8}$$

When Two Fractions Have Different Denominators

First find the smallest common denominator (smallest whole number that has both denominators as factors). Rewrite the fractions with that denominator then add or subtract. When working with mixed numbers, add or subtract the whole numbers too.

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

$$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{5} =$$

$$\frac{2}{6} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$$

$$\frac{5}{10} - \frac{2}{10} = \frac{3}{10}$$

