

Fractions

How do I add or subtract fractions?

Remember the following:

You cannot add or subtract fractions unless the denominators in the given fractions are the same.

If the denominators *are* the same, simply add (or subtract) the numerators. Put this result over the original denominator. *Do not add the denominators together.*

Example

Both denominators are the same.

$$\frac{2}{9} + \frac{5}{9} = ?$$

↗ ↘

$$\frac{2}{9} + \frac{5}{9} = \frac{2+5}{9} = \frac{7}{9}$$

↙ ↘ Add the numerators together.

↙ ↘ Keep the original denominator.

Example

Both denominators are the same.

$$\frac{9}{16} - \frac{3}{16} = ?$$

↗ ↘

$$\frac{9}{16} - \frac{3}{16} = \frac{9-3}{16} = \frac{6}{16} = \frac{3}{8}$$

↙ ↘ Subtract the numerators.

↙ ↘ Keep the original denominator.