

Fractions

How do I subtract a fraction from a whole number?

Convert the whole number to a mixed fraction. The examples below illustrate this:

Example

$$6 - \frac{3}{4} = ?$$

You will need to convert this whole number into a mixed number.

$$6 - \frac{3}{4} = ?$$

The whole number has been converted to an equivalent mixed number.

$$5 \frac{4}{4} - \frac{3}{4} = ?$$

This creates a fraction to subtract $\frac{3}{4}$ from. The fraction part of the mixed number is written as $\frac{4}{4}$ so that its denominator would be the same as $\frac{3}{4}$.

$$5 \frac{4-3}{4} = 5 \frac{1}{4}$$

Example

$$12 - 2\frac{1}{3} = ?$$

You will need to convert this whole number into a mixed number.

$$12 - 2\frac{1}{3} = ?$$

The whole number has been converted to an equivalent mixed number.

$$11 \frac{3}{3} - 2\frac{1}{3} = ?$$

This creates a fraction to subtract $\frac{1}{3}$ from. The fraction part of the mixed number is written as $\frac{3}{3}$ so that its denominator would be the same as $\frac{1}{3}$.

$$11 - 2 = 9$$

Subtract the whole numbers.

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

Subtract the fractions.

$$= 9 \frac{2}{3}$$