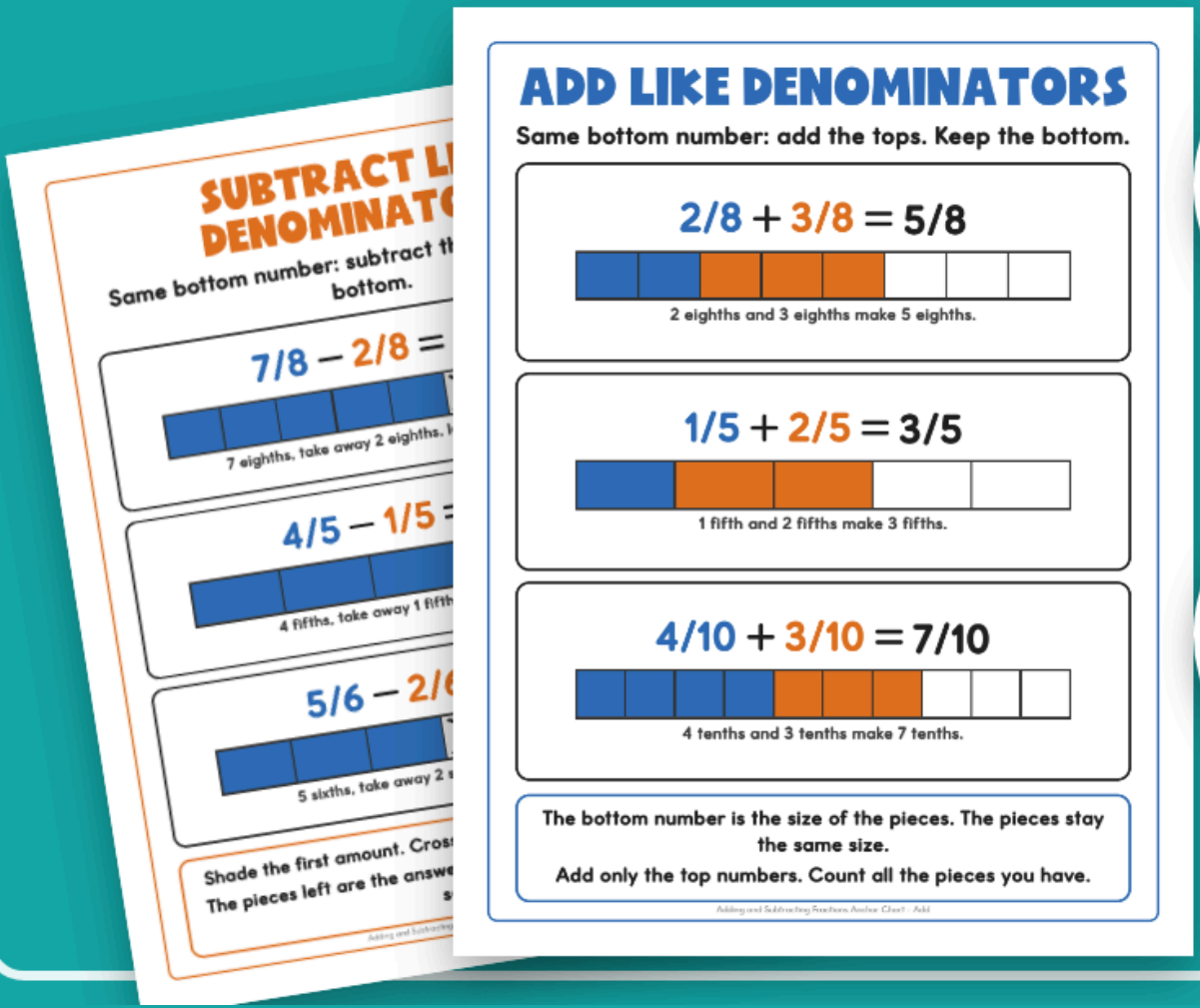
ADD & SUBTRACT FRACTIONS ANCHOR CHARTS



6 POSTERS

GRADES 4-5

Bright Path Sped

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This is a fillable PDF

- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line or a box, type, and Save As.
- The name lines, the answer blanks on the practice pages, the family note and every notes area are type-in fields. The posters and the notebook charts are print pages. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- It works offline. No account, no subscription, no internet connection needed after you download it.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the cut pieces keep their size. Every page is readable in black and white. Posters look best on cardstock; the cards children cut are fine on copy paper.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page before leaving a review. Every question is read, and a fix to the file ships as an update.

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PREVIEW

How to Teach It: Five Short Routines

Each one takes a few minutes. Say the size of the pieces first, then add or subtract.

1. Look at the bottoms

- Show the four steps (page 7). Read them aloud.
- Ask: "Do the bottom numbers match? Then the pieces are the same size."

2. Add with a bar

- Show page 5. Point to the blue pieces, then the orange pieces, then count them all.
- Say: "The pieces stay the same size, so the bottom stays the same."

3. Subtract with a bar

- Show page 6. Shade the first amount, then cross out the pieces you take away.
- Count the pieces left. They are the answer.

4. Say the words

- Show the fraction words (page 9). Children point to the numerator and the denominator.
- Ask for the sum or the difference by name.

5. Simplify and send it home

- Show page 10. Children cut the notebook charts (page 17 or 18) and glue one in.
- Send the note home (page 30) so families practice too.

Notes on your day

PREVIEW

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SUBTRACT LIKE DENOMINATORS

Same bottom number: subtract the tops. Keep the bottom.

7/8 − 2/8 = 5/8



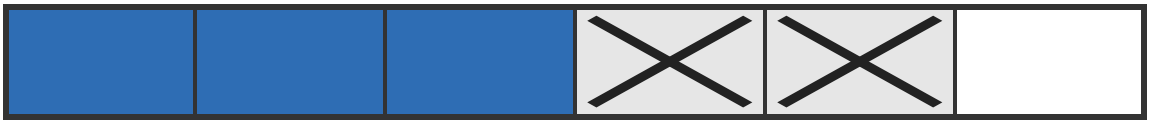
7 eighths, take away 2 eighths, leaves 5 eighths.

4/5 − 1/5 = 3/5



4 fifths, take away 1 fifth, leaves 3 fifths.

5/6 − 2/6 = 3/6



5 sixths, take away 2 sixths, leaves 3 sixths.

Shade the first amount. Cross out the pieces you take away. The pieces left are the answer. The bottom number stays the same.

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WORKED EXAMPLES

Two to add. Two to subtract. Each one with a bar.

3/8 + 4/8 = 7/8



Tops: 3 + 4 is 7.
Bottom: 8 stays 8.
Answer: 7/8.

2/6 + 4/6 = 6/6



Tops: 2 + 4 is 6.
Bottom: 6 stays 6.
6/6 is one whole.

9/10 − 4/10 = 5/10



Tops: 9 take away 4 is 5.
Bottom: 10 stays 10.
Simplify: 5/10 is 1/2.

5/6 − 1/6 = 4/6



Tops: 5 take away 1 is 4.
Bottom: 6 stays 6.
Simplify: 4/6 is 2/3.

Blue is the first amount. Orange is the second. A crossed piece is taken away.

Every answer keeps the bottom number.

PREVIEW

SIMPLIFY WHEN YOU CAN

Divide the top and the bottom by the same number.

4/8



divide by 4
top and bottom

1/2



6/9



divide by 3
top and bottom

2/3



6/10



divide by 2
top and bottom

3/5



The bars are the same length and the same amount is shaded. The fraction is the same.

Stuck? Try 2, then 3, then 5. If the top and bottom are the same, the answer is one whole.

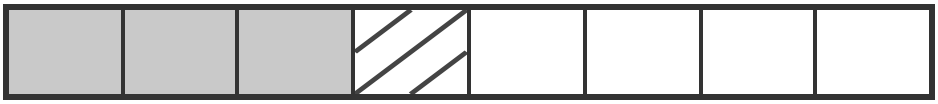
PREVIEW

FOUR STEPS

The same four steps every time.

Our example

$$3/8 + 1/8 = 4/8$$



1 Look at the bottoms.

8 and 8 match.

2 Add (or subtract) the tops.

3 + 1 is 4.

3 Keep the bottom number.

8 stays 8. The answer is 4/8.

4 Simplify if you can.

4/8 is 1/2. Divide both by 4.

Steps 1 to 3 give the answer. Step 4 makes it neat.

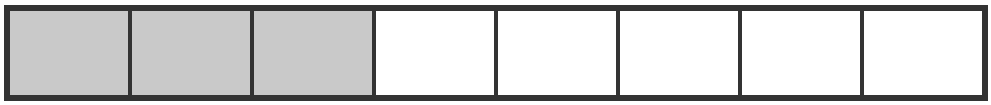
Check your answer with a bar.

PREVIEW

FRACTION WORDS

Four words to say out loud.

3/8



3 of 8 equal pieces are shaded.

Numerator

The top number. How many pieces we have.
3/8: the numerator is 3.

Denominator

The bottom number. How many equal pieces in the whole.
3/8: the denominator is 8.

Sum

The answer to an addition.
2/8 + 3/8 = 5/8. The sum is 5/8.

Difference

The answer to a subtraction.
7/8 take away 2/8 is 5/8. The difference is 5/8.

Like denominators means the bottom numbers are the same.

Say the word when you give your answer.

PREVIEW

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Cut the charts apart. Glue one in your notebook.

Add

Same bottom: add the tops. Keep the bottom.

$1/6 + 3/6 = 4/6$



Glue in your notebook.

Subtract

Same bottom: subtract the tops. Keep the bottom.

$7/10 - 3/10 = 4/10$



Glue in your notebook.

Four Steps

1. Look at the bottoms.
2. Add or subtract the tops.
3. Keep the bottom.
4. Simplify if you can.

Glue in your notebook.

Fraction Words

Numerator: top number
Denominator: bottom number
Sum: answer to adding
Difference: answer to subtracting

Glue in your notebook.

Simplify

Divide the top and bottom by the same number.

$4/8 = 1/2$

Both divided by 4.

Glue in your notebook.

Check It

Does your answer have the same bottom as the problem?

Draw a bar for the answer.
Count the shaded pieces.
The bar should match the top number.

Glue in your notebook.

PREVIEW

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My name _____

Count the pieces. Write the sum.

Blue is the first amount. Orange is the second.

2/8 + 3/8 = ___ / ___



1/6 + 4/6 = ___ / ___



3/10 + 5/10 = ___ / ___



2/5 + 2/5 = ___ / ___



4/12 + 3/12 = ___ / ___



1/4 + 2/4 = ___ / ___



PREVIEW

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My name _____

Cross out the pieces you take away. Write the difference.

The blue pieces are the first amount.

7/8 − 2/8 = ___ / ___



5/6 − 3/6 = ___ / ___



9/10 − 4/10 = ___ / ___



4/5 − 1/5 = ___ / ___



8/12 − 5/12 = ___ / ___



3/4 − 2/4 = ___ / ___



PREVIEW

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My name _____

Read. Draw a bar. Write the answer.

Maya ate 2/8 of a cornbread pan and Eli ate 3/8 of it. How much did they eat in all?

Answer: ___ / ___

Draw a bar

Dev has 7/8 of a yard of ribbon. He cuts off 3/8 of a yard. How much ribbon is left?

Answer: ___ / ___

Draw a bar

Rosa read 3/12 of her book on Monday and 5/12 on Tuesday. How much has she read?

Answer: ___ / ___

Draw a bar

A jug is 9/10 full. Then 3/10 of the jug is poured out. How much is left?

Answer: ___ / ___

Draw a bar

PREVIEW

Filled Example: One Child's Page

The page is Add or Subtract (page 21). Priya (invented child). The child, the teacher and every answer on this page are invented.

Problem	Right answer	Priya wrote	Right?
3/9+4/9	7/9	7/9	yes
6/7−2/7	4/7	4/7	yes
5/12+4/12	9/12	9/24	no
7/10−3/10	4/10	4/10	yes
2/8+5/8	7/8	7/8	yes
8/9−5/9	3/9	4/9	no
1/6+3/6	4/6	4/6	yes
11/12−4/12	7/12	7/12	yes

Reading the page

6 of 8 were right. The first wrong one is 5/12 + 4/12. Priya wrote 9/24. That adds the bottom numbers, 12 and 12, as well as the tops. The pieces are twelfths, so the bottom stays 12 and the answer is 9/12.

The second wrong one is 8/9 take away 5/9. Priya wrote 4/9, a slip in the tops: 8 take away 5 is 3, so the answer is 3/9.

What the teacher did next

The teacher had Priya draw a bar of twelfths for the first one and count the shaded pieces. Then Priya checked the second one by crossing out 5 pieces from a bar of 8 shaded ninths and counting what was left.

What this example is not

One invented child's page. It sets no typical score, says nothing about any real child and predicts nothing.

My notes on the page

PREVIEW

Key: Add or Subtract and Simplify It

Accept an answer that is already simplified on the first line you check.

Add or subtract (page 21)

Item	Problem	Answer
1	3/9 + 4/9	7/9
2	6/7 take away 2/7	4/7
3	5/12 + 4/12	9/12
4	7/10 take away 3/10	4/10
5	2/8 + 5/8	7/8
6	8/9 take away 5/9	3/9
7	1/6 + 3/6	4/6
8	11/12 take away 4/12	7/12

Simplify it (page 22)

Item	Problem	Answer	Simplified
1	1/6 + 3/6	4/6	2/3 (divide by 2)
2	5/8 take away 1/8	4/8	1/2 (divide by 4)
3	3/10 + 3/10	6/10	3/5 (divide by 2)
4	7/12 take away 1/12	6/12	1/2 (divide by 6)
5	2/8 + 4/8	6/8	3/4 (divide by 2)
6	8/9 take away 2/9	6/9	2/3 (divide by 3)

My notes on the answers

PREVIEW

Class Roll: Who Can Add and Subtract

Put a check in the box for each skill a child can do on his or her own.

Your class

Child	Adds tops	Keeps bottom	Subtracts tops	Simplifies	Word problems	Finds mistakes

PREVIEW

Next steps

- Skills with many blanks: show the bar models again, then work a few problems together.
- Keep the roll in the binder with the keys.

My notes on the class

A Note Home: Adding and Subtracting Fractions

One page to send home when you start the fraction posters.

Date _____ Class _____ Teacher _____

Dear families,

This week we are adding and subtracting fractions that have the same bottom number. The bottom number tells the size of the pieces, so it stays the same. We add or subtract only the top numbers.

$$\frac{2}{8} + \frac{3}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$$

This week we are practicing

_____

_____

You can try this at home

Look at a measuring cup together. Ask: "How much is two quarter cups and one quarter cup?" Ask what stays the same.

_____

_____

_____

A note from me (your words)

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you, (teacher) _____ Family signature, if your school asks for one _____

PREVIEW