

Add and subtract unlike fractions

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Use the explanations to discuss the idea. A worked answer is one example; equivalent answers may also be valid.

1. Find $7/8 - 5/10$.

$3/8$

$$7/8 - 5/10 = 35/40 - 20/40 = 3/8.$$

$7/8$



$5/10$



2. Find $1/2 - 3/8$.

$1/8$

$$1/2 - 3/8 = 4/8 - 3/8 = 1/8.$$

$1/2$



$3/8$



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3. Find $\frac{5}{8} + \frac{5}{7}$.

$\frac{75}{56}$

$$\frac{5}{8} + \frac{5}{7} = \frac{35}{56} + \frac{40}{56} = \frac{75}{56} = 1 \frac{19}{56}.$$

4. Find $\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{10}$.

$\frac{3}{20}$

$$\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{10} = \frac{5}{20} - \frac{2}{20} = \frac{3}{20}.$$

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5. Find $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}$.

$\frac{1}{6}$

$$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} = \frac{3}{6} - \frac{2}{6} = \frac{1}{6}.$$

6. Find $\frac{10}{12} + \frac{1}{2}$. Which reason would help you solve this correctly?

Use denominator 12. Rename both fractions before adding.

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7. A path has a $\frac{2}{5}$ -meter section followed by a $\frac{4}{9}$ -meter section. How many meters long is the path?

$\frac{38}{45}$

$\frac{2}{5} + \frac{4}{9} = \frac{18}{45} + \frac{20}{45} = \frac{38}{45}$. The answer is in meters.

8. Is $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{7}$ less than, equal to, or greater than $\frac{1}{2}$?

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$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{7} = \frac{7}{14} - \frac{6}{14} = \frac{1}{14}$. This is less than $\frac{1}{2}$.