Fraction addition and subtraction word problems

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

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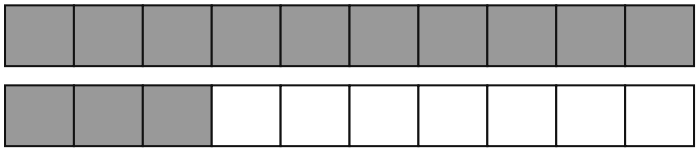
1. Two ribbon lengths measure 1 3/10 meters and 3/8 meters. What is their total length in meters?

67/40

1 3/10 + 3/8 = 52/40 + 15/40 = 67/40 = 1 27/40. The answer is in meters.

1 3/10



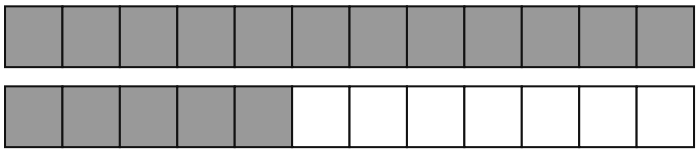
3/8

2. A jug holds 1 5/12 liters. You pour out 1 1/3 liters. How many liters remain?

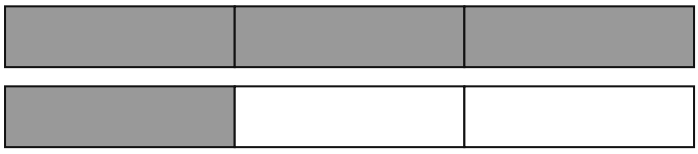
1/12

1 5/12 – 1 1/3 = 17/12 – 16/12 = 1/12. The answer is in liters.

1 5/12



1 1/3



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3. A jug has 2 9/11 liters of water. Another 1 2/5 liters are poured in. How many liters are there now?

232/55

2 9/11 + 1 2/5 = 155/55 + 77/55 = 232/55 = 4 12/55. The answer is in liters.

4. A jug has 1 7/9 liters of water. Another 1 3/6 liters are poured in. How many liters are there now?

59/18

1 7/9 + 1 3/6 = 32/18 + 27/18 = 59/18 = 3 5/18. The answer is in liters.

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5. A jug holds 1 5/8 liters. You pour out 1 1/5 liters. How many liters remain?

17/40

1 5/8 − 1 1/5 = 65/40 − 48/40 = 17/40. The answer is in liters.

6. A path has a 1 2/4-meter section followed by a 2/3-meter section. How many meters long is the path? Which reason would help you solve this correctly?

Picture the situation. Decide whether amounts are being combined or taken away, then compare the result with a nearby whole number before calculating exactly.

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7. Two ribbon lengths measure 2 8/10 meters and 2/8 meters. What is their total length in meters?

61/20

2 8/10 + 2/8 = 112/40 + 10/40 = 61/20 = 3 1/20. The answer is in meters.

8. Find 1 4/11 – 1 1/3.

1/33

1 4/11 – 1 1/3 = 45/33 – 44/33 = 1/33.