

SUBTRACTING FRACTIONS

How to Subtract Fractions

Fractions consist of two numbers. The **top** number is called the **numerator**. The **bottom** number is called the **denominator**.

$$\frac{\text{numerator}}{\text{denominator}}$$

To subtract two fractions with the same denominator:

- **Subtract** the **numerators** and
- Place that **difference** over the **common denominator**.

Example

Subtract

Place

The result

To subtract

- **F**
- **F**
- **S**
- **T**
- **C**
- **Simplify** the fraction



PREVIEW

Please [Sign In](#) or [Sign Up](#) to download the printable version of this worksheet

Example: Find the difference between $3/12$ and $2/9$.

- **Determine** the **Greatest Common Factor** of 12 and 9 which is 3
- Either **multiply** the numbers and divide by the GCF ($9 \times 12 = 108$, $108/3 = 36$) - OR - **Divide** one of the numbers by the GCF and multiply the answer times the other number ($12/3 = 4$, $9 \times 4 = 36$)
- **Rename** the fractions to use the Lowest Common Denominator ($3/12 = 9/36$, $2/9 = 8/36$)
- The result is $9/36 - 8/36$
- **Subtract** the numerators and put the difference over the LCD = $1/36$
- **Simplify** the fraction if possible. In this case it is not possible

Try This!

Find the difference for the following fractions:

$$3/5 - 2/5 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$9/25 - 11/25 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$2/3 - 9/24 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$4/8 - 6$$



PREVIEW

Please [Sign In](#) or [Sign Up](#) to download the printable version of this worksheet

