

Lesson 2-6 – Simplifying Fractions

Objectives:

- Students will memorize the multiplication table, as evidenced by them passing “minute quizzes.”
- Students will find the prime factorization of whole numbers, as evidenced by them completing a warm-up worksheet where they do so.
- Students will simplify fractions, as evidenced by them completing a homework assignment where they do so.

Student Materials on Desk Corner:

- Homework #2-5
- Homework Checker
- Readiness Checker

Student Materials for Class:

- Homework Log
- Binder Paper
- Pencils

Teacher Materials:

- “Warm-up 2-6” for each student
- “Minute Quiz 2-6” for each student
- “Homework #2-5” answer key and grading roster for TA
- “Homework #2-6” handout for each student

Homework:

- Homework #2-6

Time	Activity
Before Bell	DO NOW As students enter the classroom, shake hands and give them a copy of the warm-up . Remind students that there is a minute quiz, so students need to be seated quietly with a pencil when the bell rings.
5 min	MINUTE QUIZ, HOMEWORK COLLECTION, AND WARM-UP Minute Quiz When the bell rings, quickly go around and put the minute quiz on each student’s desk, facedown. Then, start everyone on the quiz at the same time and give everyone one minute. While students are working on the quiz, stamp the readiness checkers of students who were ready when the bell rang and had their readiness checkers out. Homework Collection Instruct the TA go around and collect homework and stamp homework checkers . Give the TA the answer key and have him or her grade the homework that was collected. Warm-up After the minute quiz, students should work on the warm-up while you take attendance .
30 min	LESSON: SIMPLIFYING FRACTIONS Notes Follow the handwritten Cornell Notes. Homework Pass out the “Homework #2-6” handout and have students write down the assignment on their homework logs.
45 min	ALEKS Students should continue with ALEKS . Use this student work time to return graded homework .

Solve the following multiplication problems. You have exactly one minute!

$11 \cdot 2 =$

$9 \cdot 7 =$

$4 \cdot 3 =$

$3 \cdot 12 =$

$11 \cdot 2 =$

$10 \cdot 5 =$

$5 \cdot 2 =$

$1 \cdot 10 =$

$9 \cdot 1 =$

$1 \cdot 6 =$

$8 \cdot 7 =$

$9 \cdot 3 =$

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$1 \cdot 10 =$

$9 \cdot 1 =$

$1 \cdot 6 =$

$8 \cdot 7 =$

$9 \cdot 3 =$

Solve the following multiplication problems. You have exactly one minute!

$2 \cdot 6 =$

$3 \cdot 11 =$

$3 \cdot 11 =$

$6 \cdot 1 =$

$5 \cdot 5 =$

$11 \cdot 5 =$

$9 \cdot 9 =$

$7 \cdot 2 =$

$4 \cdot 1 =$

$10 \cdot 7 =$

$9 \cdot 1 =$

$12 \cdot 11 =$

Solve the following multiplication problems. You have exactly one minute!

$2 \cdot 6 =$

$3 \cdot 11 =$

$3 \cdot 11 =$

$6 \cdot 1 =$

$5 \cdot 5 =$

$11 \cdot 5 =$

$9 \cdot 9 =$

$7 \cdot 2 =$

$4 \cdot 1 =$

$10 \cdot 7 =$

$9 \cdot 1 =$

$12 \cdot 11 =$

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$2 \cdot 6 =$

$3 \cdot 11 =$

$3 \cdot 11 =$

$6 \cdot 1 =$

$5 \cdot 5 =$

$11 \cdot 5 =$

$9 \cdot 9 =$

$7 \cdot 2 =$

$4 \cdot 1 =$

$10 \cdot 7 =$

$9 \cdot 1 =$

$12 \cdot 11 =$

Solve the following multiplication problems. You have exactly one minute!

$6 \cdot 2 =$

$9 \cdot 4 =$

$6 \cdot 8 =$

$5 \cdot 6 =$

$11 \cdot 9 =$

$5 \cdot 12 =$

$4 \cdot 8 =$

$7 \cdot 12 =$

$6 \cdot 9 =$

$8 \cdot 12 =$

$1 \cdot 5 =$

$6 \cdot 1 =$

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$6 \cdot 9 =$

$8 \cdot 12 =$

$1 \cdot 5 =$

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$5 \cdot 6 =$

$11 \cdot 9 =$

$5 \cdot 12 =$

$4 \cdot 8 =$

$7 \cdot 12 =$

$6 \cdot 9 =$

$8 \cdot 12 =$

$1 \cdot 5 =$

$6 \cdot 1 =$

Find the prime factorization of the following whole numbers.

1) 36

2) 24

3) 56

4) 18

5) 144

6) 26

7) 78

8) 57

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1) 36

2) 24

3) 56

4) 18

5) 144

6) 26

7) 78

8) 57

Simplifying Fractions

Section → Review of Equivalent Fractions

Recall we find equivalent fractions using the following important rule:

finding
equivalent
fractions

★ When you multiply or divide both the top and bottom of a fraction by the same number, the fraction stays the same.

Ex: Start with $\frac{12}{16}$.

a) Divide top & bottom by 2 to find an equivalent fraction.

$$\frac{12}{16} = \frac{12 \div 2}{16 \div 2} = \frac{6}{8}$$

b) Divide top & bottom by 4 to find an equivalent fraction.

$$\frac{12}{16} = \frac{12 \div 4}{16 \div 4} = \frac{3}{4}$$

So, $\frac{12}{16} = \frac{6}{8} = \frac{3}{4}$. That is, they are equivalent.

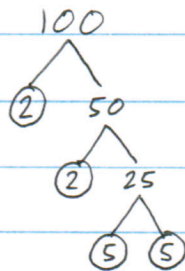
Section → Simplifying Fractions

simplest fraction In the previous example, $\frac{3}{4}$ is the simplest fraction because it has the smallest numbers. So, $\frac{3}{4}$ is the simplified form of $\frac{12}{16}$.

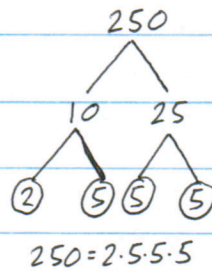
how to
simplify
fractions

To simplify a fraction, we find the prime factorization of the top and bottom numbers and then "cancel" the numbers that appear in both.

Ex: Simplify $\frac{100}{250}$.



$$100 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 5$$

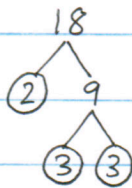


$$250 = 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5$$

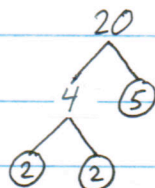
$$\frac{100}{250} = \frac{\cancel{2} \cdot \cancel{2} \cdot \cancel{5} \cdot \cancel{5}}{\cancel{2} \cdot 5 \cdot \cancel{5} \cdot \cancel{5}} = \frac{2}{5}$$

↑ this is much simpler than $\frac{100}{250}$.

Ex: Simplify $\frac{18}{20}$.



$$18 = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 3$$



$$20 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 5$$

$$\frac{18}{20} = \frac{\cancel{2} \cdot 3 \cdot 3}{\cancel{2} \cdot 2 \cdot 5} = \frac{3 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 5} = \frac{9}{10}$$

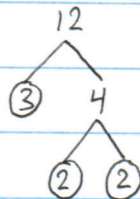
simplify
mixed number

Ex: Simplify $2\frac{3}{12}$.

already
simplified

need to
simplify

③



$$12 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3$$

$$\frac{3}{12} = \frac{\cancel{3}}{2 \cdot 2 \cdot \cancel{3}} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

So,

$$2\frac{3}{12} = 2\frac{1}{4}$$



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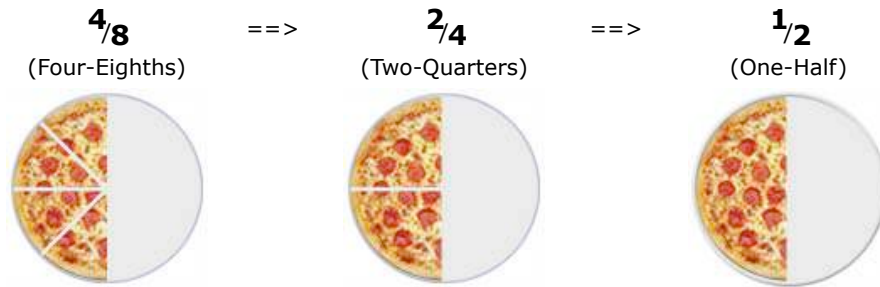
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Simplifying Fractions

To simplify a fraction, divide the top and bottom by the **highest number** that can divide into both numbers exactly.

Simplifying Fractions

Simplifying (or *reducing*) fractions means to make the fraction as simple as possible. Why say four-eighths ($\frac{4}{8}$) when you really mean half ($\frac{1}{2}$)?



How do I Simplify a Fraction ?

There are two ways to simplify a fraction:

Method 1

Try dividing both the top and bottom of the fraction until you can't go any further (try dividing by 2,3,5,7,... etc).

Example: Simplify the fraction $\frac{24}{108}$:

$$\frac{24}{108} \xrightarrow{\div 2} \frac{12}{54} \xrightarrow{\div 2} \frac{6}{27} \xrightarrow{\div 3} \frac{2}{9}$$

Red curved arrows indicate the division steps between the fractions.

Method 2

Divide both the top and bottom of the fraction by the Greatest Common Factor, (you have to work it out first!).

Example: Simplify the fraction $\frac{8}{12}$:

1. The largest number that goes exactly into both 8 and 12 is 4, so *the Greatest Common Factor is 4*.

2. Divide both top and bottom by 4:

$$\begin{array}{c} \div 4 \\ \curvearrowright \\ \frac{8}{12} = \frac{2}{3} \\ \curvearrowleft \\ \div 4 \end{array}$$

And the answer is: $\frac{2}{3}$

A Chart of Fractions

We also have a [chart of fractions](#) with the simplest fraction highlighted.

Simplifying Fractions Automatically

OK, there is a *third* method, use this tool:

<input type="text"/>	Simplify =>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>

here's more ...

- [Introduction to Fractions](#)
- [Greatest Common Factor](#)
- [Greatest Common Factor Tool](#)
- [Equivalent Fractions](#)
- [Adding Fractions](#)
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Simplifying the following fractions by reducing them. This means finding the prime factorization of the top and bottom numbers and then canceling the numbers that appear in both.

Ex.) $\frac{30}{40}$

$$\frac{30}{40} = \frac{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5}{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 5} = \frac{3}{2 \cdot 2} = \frac{3}{4}$$

1) $\frac{2}{4}$

2) $\frac{15}{30}$

3) $\frac{24}{120}$

4) $\frac{84}{168}$

5) $\frac{120}{80}$

6) $1\frac{2}{6}$

7) $2\frac{6}{12}$

$$8) \frac{62}{12}$$

$$9) \frac{9}{15}$$

$$10) 1\frac{4}{18}$$

$$11) \frac{16}{20}$$

$$12) \frac{6}{7}$$

$$13) \frac{8}{10}$$

$$14) 2\frac{10}{12}$$

$$15) 1\frac{25}{10}$$