

Addition and Subtraction of Common Fractions

CAPS Statement

Numbers, Operations and Relationships;

Calculations with fractions:

Describing fractions, addition and subtraction of common fractions.

Note

Step 1: Make sure the bottom numbers (the denominators) are the same

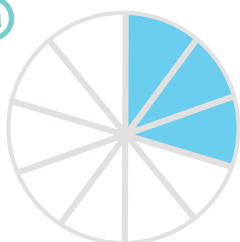
Step 2: Add/subtract the top numbers (the numerators), put the answer over the denominator

Step 3: Simplify the fraction (if needed)

Activity 1

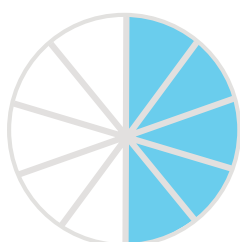
Add these common fractions then show your answers on the diagrams.

(a)



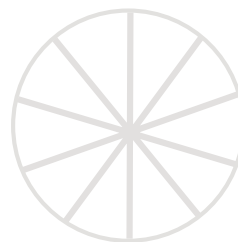
$\frac{3}{10}$

+

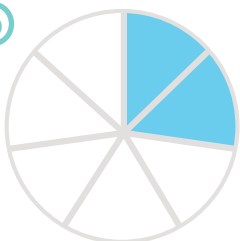


$\frac{5}{10}$

=



(b)



$\frac{2}{7}$

+

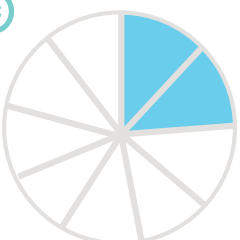


$\frac{3}{7}$

=

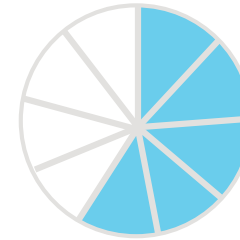


(c)



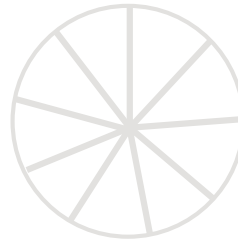
$\frac{2}{9}$

+



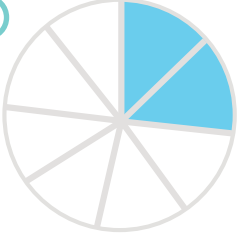
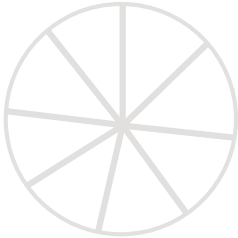
$\frac{5}{9}$

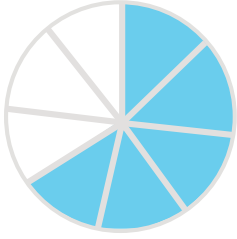
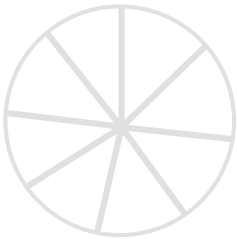
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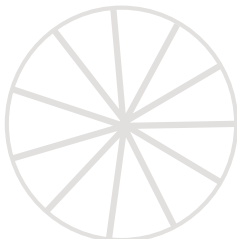


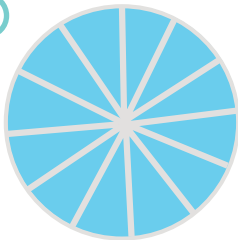
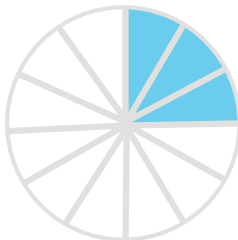
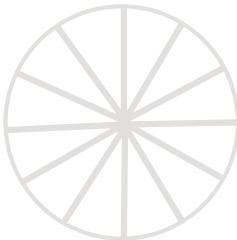
Activity 2

Subtract these common fractions. Then show your answers on the diagrams.

(a)  $\frac{2}{8}$ -  $\frac{1}{8}$ =  _____

(b)  $\frac{5}{8}$ -  $\frac{2}{8}$ =  _____

(c)  $\frac{6}{11}$ -  $\frac{4}{11}$ =  _____

(d)  $\frac{12}{12}$ -  $\frac{3}{12}$ =  _____

Activity 3

Work out the following fractions then draw your answers.

Example

$$\frac{2}{7} + \frac{3}{7} + \frac{1}{7} = \frac{6}{7}$$



a $\frac{2}{6} + \frac{2}{6} + \frac{4}{6} =$

b $\frac{1}{12} + \frac{8}{12} + \frac{6}{12} =$

c $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} =$

d $\frac{9}{7} + \frac{3}{7} + \frac{3}{7} =$

e $\frac{3}{10} + \frac{12}{10} + \frac{2}{10} =$

f $\frac{4}{6} - \frac{2}{6} =$

Teacher Tip

Encourage learners to make use of drawings in order to get better understanding of the concept.

