

ADDING & SUBTRACTING

To add or subtract fractions with unlike denominators, you need to rename them as fractions with like denominators. You can do this by making a list of equivalent fractions.

Add. $\frac{5}{12} + \frac{1}{8}$

Step 1 Write equivalent fractions for $\frac{5}{12}$. $\frac{5}{12}, \frac{10}{24}, \frac{15}{36}, \frac{20}{48}$

Step 2 Write equivalent fractions for $\frac{1}{8}$. $\frac{1}{8}, \frac{2}{16}, \frac{3}{24}$

Step 3 Rewrite the problem using the equivalent fractions.

Then add.

$$\frac{5}{12} + \frac{1}{8} \text{ becomes } \frac{10}{24} + \frac{3}{24} = \frac{13}{24}$$

Subtract. $\frac{9}{10} - \frac{1}{2}$

Step 1 Write equivalent fractions for $\frac{9}{10}$. $\frac{9}{10}, \frac{18}{20}, \frac{27}{30}, \frac{36}{40}$

Step 2 Write equivalent fractions for $\frac{1}{2}$. $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{4}, \frac{3}{6}, \frac{4}{8}, \frac{5}{10}$

Step 3 Rewrite the problem using the equivalent fractions.

Then subtract.

$$\frac{9}{10} - \frac{1}{2} \text{ becomes } \frac{9}{10} - \frac{5}{10} = \frac{4}{10}. \text{ Written in simplest form, } \frac{4}{10} = \frac{2}{5}.$$

Stop when you find two fractions with the same denominator.