

Properties and Operations of Fractions

	Property:	Example:
Add or Subtract with <i>like</i> denominators:	$\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{b} = \frac{a+c}{b}$	$\frac{2}{5} + \frac{3x}{5} = \frac{2+3x}{5}$
Add or Subtract with <i>unlike</i> denominators:	$\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad}{bd} + \frac{cb}{bd} = \frac{ad+cb}{bd}$	$\frac{2}{5} + \frac{4}{7} = \frac{2 \cdot 7}{5 \cdot 7} + \frac{4 \cdot 5}{7 \cdot 5} = \frac{14+20}{35} = \frac{34}{35}$
Multiply Fractions:	$\frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ac}{bd}$	$\frac{2x}{5} \cdot \frac{3x}{7} = \frac{6x^2}{35}$
Divide Fractions:	$\frac{\frac{a}{b}}{\frac{c}{d}} = \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{d}{c}$	$\frac{\frac{2}{3}}{\frac{5}{4}} = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{4}{5} = \frac{8}{15}$
	$\frac{a}{b} \div \frac{c}{d} = \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{d}{c}$	$\frac{2}{3} \div \frac{5}{4} = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{4}{5} = \frac{8}{15}$
Equivalent Fractions:	$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{ac}{bc}$ where $c \neq 0$	$\frac{2}{3} = \frac{2 \cdot 4}{3 \cdot 4} = \frac{8}{12}$
	$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d}$ if and only if $ad = bc$	$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$ because $1 \cdot 4 = 2 \cdot 2$
Reducing Fractions:	$\frac{ac}{bc} = \frac{a}{b}$	$\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1 \cdot \cancel{2}}{2 \cdot \cancel{2}} = \frac{1}{2}$
Rules of Signs:	$-\frac{a}{b} = \frac{-a}{b} = \frac{a}{-b}$	$-\frac{2}{5} = \frac{-2}{5} = \frac{2}{-5}$
	$\frac{-a}{-b} = \frac{a}{b}$	$\frac{-2}{-5} = \frac{2}{5}$