Name _____ Date _____

SUBTRACTING FRACTIONS: UNLIKE DENOMINATORS

To subtract fractions with unlike denominators, start by making equivalent fractions using the least common denominator. Then, subtract the fractions. Let's try it!

SOLVE: $\dfrac{3}{8} - \dfrac{1}{4}$

First, find the least common denominator. The least common denominator (LCD) is the smallest common multiple of both denominators. For this problem, the LCD is 8. Keep the first fraction the same since it already has a denominator of 8. Multiply the second fraction to make an equivalent fraction with a denominator of 8.

$$\dfrac{1 \times 2}{4 \times 2} = \dfrac{2}{8}$$

Next, subtract the fractions. Subtract the numerators and keep the denominator the same. Make sure your answer is in simplest form.

$$\dfrac{3}{8} - \dfrac{2}{8} = \dfrac{1}{8}$$

Subtract the fractions below. Write your answer in simplest form.

A. $\dfrac{8}{10} - \dfrac{2}{5} =$

B. $\dfrac{7}{8} - \dfrac{5}{16} =$

C. $\dfrac{5}{7} - \dfrac{2}{3} =$

D. $\dfrac{11}{15} - \dfrac{3}{5} =$

E. $\dfrac{3}{4} - \dfrac{1}{5} =$

F. $\dfrac{5}{6} - \dfrac{2}{15} =$

BONUS
Create your own fractions to practice subtraction! All you need is a pair of dice, a pencil, and a separate piece of paper.

1. Roll the dice. Write the smaller number as the numerator and the larger number as the denominator of the first fraction.

2. Roll the dice again and write the second fraction.

3. Subtract the smaller fraction from the larger fraction and record your answer.

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