

Fraction Word Problems: + Adding with Unlike Denominators

When you add fractions with unlike denominators, first you need to make the denominators equal.

Example: $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2}$ ← numerator
← denominator

1. Multiply each fraction by the other fraction's denominator.

- Multiply both the numerator and the denominator of $\frac{1}{3}$ by 2. $\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{2}{2} = \frac{2}{6}$ ← denominator

Notice that now the denominator is equal to 6.

(Remember: any number over itself is equal to 1! Since we multiplied by the equivalent of 1, $\frac{1}{3}$ is equal to $\frac{2}{6}$.)

- Multiply both the numerator and the denominator of $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3. $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{3} = \frac{3}{6}$ ← denominator

Notice that now the denominator is equal to 6.

2. Now you have $\frac{2}{6}$ and $\frac{3}{6}$. Add them together. $\frac{2}{6} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$

Solve the word problems by adding fractions.

Mr. Snail walked $\frac{1}{6}$ mile in the morning and $\frac{2}{7}$ mile in the evening. How many miles did he walk in total?

1. Multiply each fraction by the other fraction's denominator.



Multiply $\frac{1}{6}$ by $\frac{7}{7}$. $\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{7}{7} = \frac{\quad}{\quad}$ Multiply $\frac{2}{7}$ by $\frac{6}{6}$. $\frac{2}{7} \times \frac{6}{6} = \frac{\quad}{\quad}$

2. Now you get $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$ and $\frac{\quad}{\quad}$ 3. Add them together. $\frac{\quad}{\quad} + \frac{\quad}{\quad} = \frac{\quad}{\quad}$

Read the question below and use another piece of paper to find the answer. Show your work.



Mr. Snail weighs $\frac{2}{5}$ pound and Ms. Butterfly weighs $\frac{3}{8}$ pound. How much do they weigh together?