LESSON MAKER PRO

Fraction Shortcuts

Make a whole, break a whole, and find the difference.

GRADE 4 · 4.NOS.E.12.c

4.NOS.E.12.c "Apply and extend whole number addition and subtraction strategies (e.g. counting on, making a whole, partial sums, compensation, properties of operations..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

THE BIG IDEA

When fractions have the same denominator, add or subtract the numerators and keep the denominator. To make the math easier, you can put fraction parts together to make a whole or break a whole into equal parts.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Find 7/9 + 5/9.

1. Break apart 5/9: 5/9 = 2/9 + 3/9.
2. Make a whole: 7/9 + 2/9 = 1.
3. Add the part left over: 1 + 3/9 = 1 3/9.

Answer: 1 3/9, or 1 1/3

PRACTICE 6 problems

1 Find 5/8 + 6/8.

ANSWER _____

2 Find 1 - 7/10.

ANSWER _____

3 Find 2 1/6 + 1 4/6.

ANSWER _____

4 Find 3 2/4 - 1 3/4.

ANSWER _____

5 Find the missing fraction: ___ + 5/12 = 1 1/12.

ANSWER _____

6 Find 4/7 + 6/7 - 3/7.

ANSWER _____

APPLY IT Show your work

1 For a school carnival, Maya cuts 3/8 meter of ribbon for a prize tag and 6/8 meter for a banner. How much ribbon does she cut in all?

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

2 At a park, Jada runs 2 1/5 miles on Saturday and 4/5 mile on Sunday. How much farther does she run on Saturday?

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

CHALLENGE One step up

Find 2 3/8 - 7/8. Explain how breaking apart one whole helps you subtract. Write two sentences.

WORK SPACE AND ANSWER

ANSWER KEY

Fraction Shortcuts

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PART 1 · PRACTICE

#	PROBLEM	ANSWER
1	Find 5/8 + 6/8.	**1 3/8**
2	Find 1 - 7/10.	**3/10**
3	Find 2 1/6 + 1 4/6.	**3 5/6**
4	Find 3 2/4 - 1 3/4.	**1 3/4**
5	Find the missing fraction: ___ + 5/12 = 1 1/12.	**8/12, or 2/3**
6	Find 4/7 + 6/7 - 3/7.	**1**

PART 2 · APPLY IT

1. **1 1/8 meters** Add 3/8 + 6/8 = 9/8. Write 9/8 as 1 1/8.
2. **1 2/5 miles** Break apart one whole so 2 1/5 becomes 1 6/5. Then subtract 1 6/5 - 4/5 = 1 2/5.

CHALLENGE

I change 2 3/8 to 1 11/8 by breaking apart one whole. Then 1 11/8 - 7/8 = 1 4/8 = 1 1/2.

Accept equivalent fractions and mixed numbers. For the challenge, accept any accurate two-sentence explanation that shows how breaking apart a whole makes the subtraction possible.