Adding and Subtracting Fractions

To Add or Subtract Fractions, Look at the Denominators

Like Denominators

Change mixed numbers to improper fractions to borrow.

Add or subtract the numerators, <u>keep</u> the denominator

Simplify the result.

<u>Example</u>:

$$2\frac{3}{8}-1\frac{5}{8}=\frac{19}{8}-\frac{13}{8}=$$

$$\frac{19-13}{8}=\frac{6}{8}=\frac{\cancel{2}\cdot 3}{\cancel{2}\cdot 4}=\frac{3}{4}$$

Unlike Denominators

Find the **LCD** (list the multiples of the larger denominator).

Write equivalent fractions with the LCD as the denominator

Add or subtract the numerators, <u>keep</u> the denominator.

Simplify the result.

<u>Example</u>:

$$2\frac{1}{4}+1\frac{7}{8}=2\frac{1}{4}\cdot\frac{2}{2}+1\frac{7}{8}=$$

$$2\frac{2}{8}+1\frac{7}{8}=3\frac{9}{8}=3+\frac{9}{8}=$$

$$3+1\frac{1}{8}=4\frac{1}{8}$$

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