

Vocabulary: Adding Fractions



Vocabulary

- **Denominator** – the bottom number in a fraction.
 - The denominator represents the number of equal parts the whole has been divided into.
 - For example, in the fraction $\frac{3}{5}$, the denominator shows that the whole has been divided into 5 equal parts.
- **Equivalent** – equal in value.
 - Equivalent fractions are fractions that have different numerators and denominators but which represent the same amount.
 - For example, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$ are equivalent fractions.
- **Fraction** – a number that shows the relationship between a part and a whole.
 - A fraction has a *denominator* (bottom number) and a *numerator* (top number).
- **Least common denominator** – the least common multiple of the denominators of a set of fractions.
 - For example, if the fractions are $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$, the least common denominator is 6 because 6 is the least common multiple of 2 and 3.
 - Least common denominator is commonly abbreviated “LCD.”
- **Numerator** – the top number in a fraction.
 - The numerator counts the number of equal parts indicated by the fraction.
 - For example, in the fraction $\frac{3}{5}$, the numerator shows that the fraction refers to 3 of the 5 equal parts that make up the whole.
- **Sum** – the result of adding numbers.
 - The sum of 5 and 3 is 8 because $5 + 3 = 8$.
 - The sum of $\frac{2}{9}$ and $\frac{3}{9}$ is $\frac{5}{9}$ because $\frac{2}{9} + \frac{3}{9} = \frac{5}{9}$.