

Cue Card 3

Making Both Denominators the Same

- (1) Are the numerals of the fractions the same on the bottom (denominator)?
If not, find the Least Common Multiple (LCM), and multiply the top (numerator) and the bottom (denominator) by the same number to get both bottom numbers (denominators) equal to each other.

Example:

$$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{6}{6} + \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{4}{4}$$
$$\frac{6}{12} + \frac{4}{12}$$

- (2) Are the numbers of the fractions the same on the bottom (denominator)?
If yes, add or subtract on top (numerator) only. The bottom number (denominator) stays the same.

Examples:

$$\frac{6}{12} + \frac{4}{12} = \frac{10}{12}$$

$$\frac{6}{12} - \frac{4}{12} = \frac{2}{12}$$

- (3) Can it be reduced? Can the top number (numerator) and the bottom number (denominator) be divided by the same number?

No Example:

$$\frac{11}{12}$$

Yes Example:

$$\frac{10}{12} \div \frac{2}{2} = \frac{5}{6}$$