



Adding and Subtracting Fractions

Today's Standard

5.NF.A1 - Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators (including mixed numbers) by replacing given fractions with equivalent fractions in such a way as to produce an equivalent sum or difference of fractions with like denominators. For example, $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{5}{4} = \frac{8}{12} + \frac{15}{12} = \frac{23}{12}$. (In general, $\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad + bc}{bd}$.)

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Cooking: Adjusting recipes with fractional measurements.; Construction: Measuring and cutting materials to specific fractional lengths.; Budgeting: Combining fractional parts of different expenses.

Today I Learned

Today, we learned how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators. We do this by changing the fractions so they have the same bottom number, called the denominator.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Sometimes, kids think they can add fractions without making the denominators the same. This doesn't work. Another tricky part is mixing up how to find equivalent fractions and the least common multiple. These are different steps.

Quiz Me

- What is a common denominator?
- How do you add fractions with different denominators?
- What is an equivalent fraction?
- Can you add $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ directly?
- What do you do first when adding $\frac{2}{5}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$?

Help Me

When we add fractions with different denominators, we need to make the bottom numbers, or denominators, the same. This helps us add the fractions correctly. For example, if you are cooking and need to combine $\frac{1}{2}$ cup and $\frac{1}{3}$ cup, you first change them to have the same denominator before adding.

