



Adding and Subtracting Fractions

Today's Standard

5.NF.A2 - Solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions referring to the same whole, including cases of unlike denominators, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem. Use benchmark fractions and number sense of fractions to estimate mentally and assess the reasonableness of answers. For example, recognize an incorrect result $2/5 + 1/2 = 3/7$, by observing that $3/7 < 1/2$.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Cooking recipes that require combining different fractions of ingredients.; Splitting a bill among friends with different share amounts.; Measuring lengths in construction or DIY projects that involve fractional parts.; Comparing portions of time spent on different activities.

Today I Learned

Today we learned how to solve problems with fractions that have different bottom numbers. We use pictures and common fractions like $1/2$ to help us add and subtract them.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Sometimes kids think they can just add the top and bottom numbers of fractions, but that's not right. They also might not check if their answer makes sense. Using common fractions like $1/2$ can help.

Quiz Me

- What do you need to do before adding fractions with different bottom numbers?
- What is a benchmark fraction?
- Why is it important to estimate your answer?
- Can you add $1/4$ and $1/3$ without changing them?
- Give an example of a visual model for fractions.

Help Me

When we add or subtract fractions, we sometimes need to use real-life examples like cooking or sharing things. For example, if you have $1/2$ cup of sugar and need $1/4$ cup more, you can see how much you have in

total by adding the fractions.