

Adding and Subtracting Unlike Fractions

Cover the page below the line. Then try to figure out the addition problems below.
 (Parent/teacher: You can also give this to your student(s) on a separate paper, to explore on their own.)

+ =

$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} =$ What fraction would this be??

+ =

$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} =$ What fraction would this be??

$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{6} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$

$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{4}{12} + \frac{3}{12} = \frac{7}{12}$

Did you find a solution to the problems above?

It is this:

We convert the fractions so that they become **like fractions** (with a same denominator), using **equivalent fractions**.

Then we can add (or subtract).

1. Write the fractions shown by the pie images. Convert them into equivalent fractions with the same denominator (like fractions), and then add them. Color the missing parts.

a.

$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$

↓ ↓

$\frac{\quad}{\quad} + \frac{\quad}{\quad} = \frac{\quad}{\quad}$

b.

$\frac{\quad}{\quad} + \frac{\quad}{\quad}$

↓ ↓

$\frac{\quad}{\quad} + \frac{\quad}{\quad} = \frac{\quad}{\quad}$

c.

$\frac{\quad}{\quad} + \frac{\quad}{\quad}$

↓ ↓

$\frac{\quad}{\quad} + \frac{\quad}{\quad} = \frac{\quad}{\quad}$