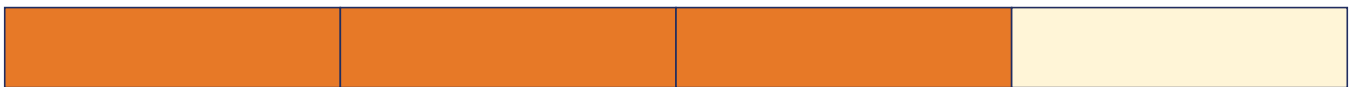


Primary fractions: understand them with everyday examples

Divide into equal parts

A fraction describes equal parts of a whole. In $\frac{3}{4}$, the denominator 4 tells you how many equal parts make the whole, and the numerator 3 tells you how many are selected. Unequal pieces cannot simply be counted as a fraction.



3 out of 4 parts

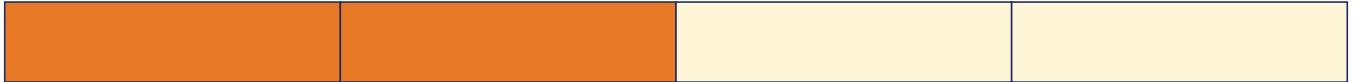
Notation	How to read it
$\frac{1}{2}$	One half
$\frac{1}{4}$	One quarter
$\frac{3}{4}$	Three quarters

Your turn

Draw a rectangle, split it into four equal parts and shade one part. What fraction is shaded?

Compare using the same whole

Two fractions can represent the same amount: $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$. Use two same-sized rectangles to check. With the same denominator, compare numerators. With the same numerator, dividing the same whole into more pieces makes each piece smaller.



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

Before calculating

Draw two identical rectangles. Shade $\frac{1}{2}$ of the first and $\frac{2}{4}$ of the second. Compare the shaded areas.

The shaded areas are equal. The number of pieces changes, but the amount does not.

Ten short exercises

No.	Question
1	One of two equal parts is selected. Write the fraction.
2	Three of eight equal parts are selected. Write the fraction.
3	What is the denominator in $\frac{5}{6}$?
4	What is the numerator in $\frac{5}{6}$?
5	$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{?}{4}$
6	$\frac{2}{6} = \frac{?}{3}$
7	Compare $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$.
8	Compare $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{6}$ using the same whole.
9	How many objects are half of 10?
10	How many objects are one quarter of 12?

My answers

Write the answers in order, then explain one answer with a drawing.

Check your answers

No.	Answer and explanation
1	$\frac{1}{2}$
2	$\frac{3}{8}$
3	6: the number of equal parts.
4	5: the number of selected parts.
5	$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$
6	$\frac{2}{6} = \frac{1}{3}$
7	$\frac{3}{8} < \frac{5}{8}$
8	$\frac{1}{3} > \frac{1}{6}$
9	5 objects, because $10 \div 2 = 5$.
10	3 objects, because $12 \div 4 = 3$.

To help a child, ask them to show the parts rather than recite a rule. If they make a mistake, return to the same drawing and check that the parts are equal. Then try one example with different numbers.

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