



## SKILL 5: Subtracting Fractions

To subtract fractions with the same denominator, subtract the numerators and write the difference over the common denominator. Then write the answer in simplest form.

### Example 1

Find  $\frac{9}{10} - \frac{3}{10}$  in simplest form.

Subtract numerators only.

$$\frac{9}{10} - \frac{3}{10} = \frac{9-3}{10}$$

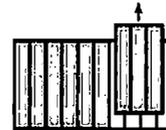
The denominators do not change.

$$= \frac{6}{10}$$

Write in simplest form.

$$= \frac{3}{5}$$

$$\text{So, } \frac{9}{10} - \frac{3}{10} = \frac{3}{5}.$$



To subtract fractions with unlike denominators, write equivalent fractions with the least common denominator. Then subtract.

### Example 2

Find  $\frac{7}{15} - \frac{3}{10}$  in simplest form.

The least common multiple of 15 and 10 is 30. Rewrite the fractions using the least common denominator, 30.

$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{7}{15} \rightarrow \frac{7 \times 2}{15 \times 2} \rightarrow \frac{14}{30} \\ - \frac{3}{10} \rightarrow \frac{3 \times 3}{10 \times 3} \rightarrow \frac{9}{30} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Subtract. Write the difference in simplified form.

$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{14}{30} \\ - \frac{9}{30} \\ \hline \frac{5}{30} = \frac{1}{6} \end{array}$$

$$\text{So, } \frac{7}{15} - \frac{3}{10} = \frac{1}{6}.$$

### Guided Practice

Find each difference in simplest form.

$$1. \frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{\square - \square}{6} = \frac{\square}{6} = \frac{\square}{\square}$$

$$2. \frac{7}{10} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{\square - \square}{20} = \frac{\square}{\square}$$

$$3. \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{5} = \frac{\square - \square}{15} = \frac{\square}{\square}$$

$$4. \frac{17}{18} - \frac{1}{9} = \frac{\square - \square}{18} = \frac{\square}{18} = \frac{\square}{\square}$$

**SKILL 5: Practice**

Find each difference in simplest form.

1. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{3}{4} \\ - \frac{1}{8} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

2. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{6}{8} \\ - \frac{5}{8} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

3. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{8}{9} \\ - \frac{2}{3} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

4. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{3}{20} \\ - \frac{1}{20} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

5. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{5}{6} \\ - \frac{1}{2} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

6. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{1}{5} \\ - \frac{1}{7} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

7. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{4}{5} \\ - \frac{1}{6} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

8. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{7}{14} \\ - \frac{3}{14} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

9. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{3}{5} \\ - \frac{1}{3} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

10. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{7}{8} \\ - \frac{1}{4} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

11. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{2}{5} \\ - \frac{1}{10} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

12. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{2}{3} \\ - \frac{1}{4} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

13. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{5}{6} \\ - \frac{1}{3} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

14. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{2}{3} \\ - \frac{2}{5} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

15. 
$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{9}{10} \\ - \frac{3}{4} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Solve.

16. Josy exercised  $\frac{5}{6}$  of an hour on Monday and  $\frac{3}{5}$  of an hour on Tuesday. How much longer did she exercise on Monday? \_\_\_\_\_17. Larry, Mary, and Sara share a pizza. The fraction of the pizza each ate is shown in the table at the right. Which two children were closest in the fraction they ate?  
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Fraction of the Pizza Eaten	
Larry	$\frac{1}{6}$
Mary	$\frac{3}{8}$
Sara	$\frac{11}{24}$

18. Find  $\frac{7}{9} - \frac{2}{3}$  in simplest form. *Skill 5*

A  $\frac{1}{9}$

C  $\frac{5}{9}$

B  $\frac{1}{6}$

D  $\frac{5}{6}$

19. Find  $\frac{3}{5} + 2\frac{3}{4}$  in simplest form. *Skill 4*

F  $2\frac{2}{3}$

H  $3\frac{3}{20}$

G  $2\frac{7}{20}$

J  $3\frac{7}{20}$