

Sheet 3: Subtracting Fractions with Different Denominators

Worked example:

Max has $\frac{3}{4}$ of a basket of bananas and gives $\frac{1}{6}$ to his friend, how many bananas does Max have left?

Answer: To subtract $\frac{1}{6}$ from $\frac{3}{4}$, find the common denominator, which is 12. So, $\frac{3}{4}$ is $\frac{9}{12}$ and $\frac{1}{6}$ is $\frac{2}{12}$. Then, $\frac{9}{12} - \frac{2}{12} = \frac{7}{12}$

- Pip has $\frac{5}{8}$ of a bookshelf full of books and removes $\frac{1}{4}$ of the books, how many books does Pip have left? _____
- Nova has $\frac{2}{3}$ of a bag of star-shaped cookies and eats $\frac{1}{5}$ of the cookies, how many cookies does Nova have left? _____
- Ellie has $\frac{3}{5}$ of a picture frame filled with photos and removes $\frac{1}{10}$ of the photos, how many photos does Ellie have left? _____
- Finn has $\frac{7}{12}$ of a treasure chest filled with seashells and gives $\frac{1}{8}$ to his friend, how many seashells does Finn have left? _____
- Zara has $\frac{9}{16}$ of a canvas filled with paint and uses $\frac{1}{4}$ of the paint, how much paint does Zara have left? _____

Self-check: Check your answers by finding the common denominator and subtracting the fractions, just like Max did in the worked example

Ready for next: When you can confidently subtract fractions with different denominators, you're ready to move on to multiplying a fraction by a whole number