

Maths Star

Simple Addition of Fractions

Adding fractions is not as easy as adding up the numerators and denominators!
The rules are:

- 1) make sure that the denominators are the same
- 2) only add the numerators together

E.g. $\frac{1}{7} + \frac{3}{14}$

In this example, the numbers on the bottom are 7 and 14. We have to think of a multiple of 7 and 14 (a number that both 7 and 14 will go into). The smallest one is 14 ($14 \times 1 = 14$, $7 \times 2 = 14$). This means we need to change the 7 to a 14, so times by 2. **REMEMBER** though that whatever you do to the bottom you must do to the top! So our fraction changes from $\frac{1}{7}$ to $\frac{2}{14}$

★ **Reminder: Only add the numerators together!**

$$\frac{2}{14} + \frac{3}{14} = \frac{5}{14}$$

Now it's your turn!

$$1) \frac{4}{9} + \frac{2}{18} = \frac{8}{18} + \frac{2}{18} = \frac{10}{18} = \frac{5}{9}$$

$$2) \frac{1}{9} + \frac{2}{3} = \frac{1}{9} + \frac{6}{9} = \frac{7}{9}$$

$$3) \frac{7}{20} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{7}{20} + \frac{4}{20} = \frac{11}{20}$$

$$4) \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{14} + \frac{7}{14} = \frac{9}{14}$$

$$5) \frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{6}{12} + \frac{4}{12} = \frac{10}{12} = \frac{5}{6}$$

Handy ★ hint: Sometimes, you might need to **SIMPLIFY** your answer if both the numerator and denominator can be divided by the same number. (See "Simplifying Fractions" Worksheet)