

# ADDING & SUBTRACTING Rational Expressions

(\*with UNLIKE BASES)

$$\frac{1}{8} + \left(\frac{2}{4}\right)^2$$

$$\frac{1}{8} + \frac{2}{8} = \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)$$
  

$$3\left(\frac{1}{8}\right) + \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^8$$

$$\frac{3}{24} + \frac{16}{24} = \left(\frac{19}{24}\right)$$

Common denominator: 8, 16, 24, 32  
3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24

- Find a common denominator!
- Rewrite the fractions using the common denominator. Adjust each numerator to reflect the change in the denominator.
- Add/Subtract the numerators and keep the common denominator.
- Simplify (if needed).

Example 1:  $\frac{2x}{3} + \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^3$   
 (L.C.D. = 6)

$$\frac{2x}{6} + \frac{3x}{6} = \left(\frac{5x}{6}\right)$$

Example 2:  $\frac{5(a+10)}{6} - \frac{(2a-1)}{30}$

$$\frac{5a+50}{6} - \frac{(2a-1)}{30}$$

$$\frac{30(5a+50) - (2a-1)}{30}$$

$$= \frac{150a+1500 - 2a + 1}{30} = \left(\frac{148a+1501}{30}\right)$$

Example 3:  $\frac{k+24}{5k+20} + \frac{k}{k+4}$

$$\frac{k+24}{5(k+4)} + \frac{k}{k+4}$$

$$\frac{k+24 + 5k}{5(k+4)} = \frac{6k+24}{5(k+4)}$$

$$\frac{6(k+4)}{5(k+4)} = \left(\frac{6}{5}\right)$$

Example 4:  $\frac{(r+6)(4r)}{r-1} - \frac{28r}{r^2+5r-6}$

$$\frac{4r^2+24r}{(r+6)(r-1)} - \frac{28r}{(r+6)(r-1)}$$

$$\frac{4r^2+24r-28r}{(r+6)(r-1)} = \frac{4r^2-4r}{(r+6)(r-1)}$$

$$= \frac{4r(r-1)}{(r+6)(r-1)} = \left(\frac{4r}{r+6}\right)$$

## YOU TRY!

Find each sum or difference. Write each answer in simplest form.

1.  $\frac{4}{5p} - \frac{7}{15p}$

$$\frac{12-7}{15p} = \frac{5}{15p} = \left(\frac{1}{3p}\right)$$

2.  $\frac{9}{4c} + \frac{3}{2c}$

$$\frac{9}{4c} + \frac{6}{4c} = \left(\frac{15}{4c}\right)$$

3.  $\frac{y}{2} - \frac{y}{5} + \frac{y}{6}$  (Common denominator = 30)

$$\frac{15y}{30} - \frac{6y}{30} + \frac{5y}{30} = \frac{4y}{30} = \left(\frac{2y}{15}\right)$$

4.  $\frac{9x}{5} - \frac{3x}{4} + \frac{7x}{10}$  (Common denominator = 20)

$$\frac{36x}{20} - \frac{15x}{20} + \frac{14x}{20} = \frac{35x}{20} = \left(\frac{7x}{4}\right)$$

5.  $\frac{y-2}{3} + \frac{y+1}{6}$

$$\frac{2y-4}{6} + \frac{y+1}{6} = \frac{3y-3}{6}$$

$$= \frac{3(y-1)}{6} = \left(\frac{y-1}{2}\right)$$

6.  $\frac{5n+9}{12} - \frac{2n+8}{16}$  (Common denominator = 48)

$$\frac{20n+36}{48} - \frac{6n+24}{48} = \frac{14n+12}{48}$$

$$= \frac{7n+6}{24}$$

$$7. \frac{1}{x-7} + \frac{6}{2x-14}$$

$$8. \frac{6k}{k^2-9} + \frac{k}{k+3}$$

$$9. \frac{w}{w+2} - \frac{8}{w^2-4}$$

$$10. \frac{1}{m-5} + \frac{2m-19}{m^2-m-20}$$

$\frac{20}{5 \times 4}$   
 $\frac{-1}{-1}$

$$\frac{m+4}{(m+4)(m-5)} + \frac{2m-19}{(m-5)(m+4)}$$

$$\frac{(3m-15)}{(m-5)(m-4)}$$

$$\frac{3}{m-4} = \frac{3(m-5)}{(m-4)(m-5)}$$

$$11. \frac{g^2+4g}{g^2+6g+8} + \frac{3}{g+2}$$

$$12. \frac{4a}{a^2+6a+5} + \frac{1}{a+1}$$

13.  $\frac{5}{p^2 - p - 6} + \frac{1}{p + 2}$

14.  $\frac{4}{4z - 1} + \frac{8z - 15}{4z^2 + 11z - 3}$

15.  $\frac{r^2 + 8r - 12}{2r^2 - 5r - 3} - \frac{3}{r - 3}$

16.  $\frac{5x}{x+2} - \frac{x}{x-1} + \frac{3}{x^2+x-2}$

$$= \frac{5x(x-1)(x+2) - x(x+2)(x+2) + 3(x+2)(x-1)}{(x+2)(x-1)}$$

$$= \frac{4x^2 - 7x + 3}{(x+2)(x-1)}$$

$$= \frac{(4x-1)(x-1)}{(x+2)(x-1)}$$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 4x & 4x^2 - 3x \\ -1 & -4x + 3 \\ \hline & 3 \end{array}$$

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Per: \_\_\_\_\_ **Homework 5: Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions (Unlike Bases)**

**\*\* This is a 2-page document! \*\***

<p><b>Directions:</b> Find each sum or difference. Make sure your answer is simplified.</p>	
<p>1. <math>\frac{7y}{6} - \frac{y}{2} + \frac{2y}{9}</math></p>	<p>2. <math>\left(\frac{3}{4x}\right) - \frac{1}{20x}</math> <math>\frac{15}{20x} + \frac{1}{20x} = \frac{16}{20x} = \frac{4}{5x}</math></p>
<p>3. <math>\frac{m-1}{2} - \frac{3m+1}{18}</math></p>	<p>4. <math>\frac{12}{4(k-5)} - \left(\frac{1}{k-5}\right)</math>  <math>\frac{12}{4(k-5)} - \frac{4}{4(k-5)} = \frac{8}{4(k-5)} = \frac{2}{k-5}</math></p>
<p>5. <math>\frac{x-4}{3x-3} + \frac{1}{x-1}</math></p>	<p>6. <math>\left(\frac{y}{y-8}\right) - \frac{6y+80}{(y^2-64)}</math>  <math>\frac{y^2+8y}{(y+8)(y-8)} - \frac{6y+80}{(y+8)(y-8)} = \frac{y^2+8y-6y-80}{(y+8)(y-8)} = \frac{y^2+2y-80}{(y+8)(y-8)}</math>  <math>\frac{(y+10)(y-8)}{(y+8)(y-8)}</math></p>

$$7. \frac{6x}{x^2-4} - \frac{3}{x-2}$$

$$8. \frac{3w}{(w^2-4w)} - \frac{1}{(w-4)} w$$
$$\frac{3w}{w(w-4)} - \frac{w}{w(w-4)} - \frac{2w}{w(w-4)}$$
$$\frac{2}{w-4}$$

<p><b>9.</b> <math>\frac{3}{x+1} - \frac{6}{x^2+4x+3}</math></p>	<p><b>10.</b> <math>\frac{1}{g-6} + \frac{g-17}{g^2-g-30}</math> <del><math>\frac{-6}{-1}</math></del>  <math>\frac{g+5}{(g+5)(g-6)} + \frac{g-17}{(g-6)(g+5)} = \frac{(2g-12)}{(g-6)(g+5)}</math>  <math>\frac{2}{g+5} = \frac{2(g-6)}{(g-6)(g+5)}</math></p>
<p><b>11.</b> <math>\frac{8y-26}{y^2-4y-21} - \frac{3}{y-7}</math></p>	<p><b>12.</b> <math>\frac{x^2-3x-1}{(2x^2+5x+2)(2x+1)} + \frac{x}{2x+1}</math> <del><math>\frac{4}{5}</math></del> <del><math>\frac{1}{1}</math></del> <math>\frac{2x+1}{2}</math>  <math>\frac{x^2-3x-1 + (x^2+2x)}{(2x+1)(x+2)} = \frac{2x^2-x-1}{(2x+1)(x+2)}</math>  <del><math>\frac{-2}{-2}</math></del> <math>\frac{2x+1}{-1}</math> <math>\frac{2x^2+1x}{-2x-1}</math> <math>\frac{(2x+1)(x-1)}{(2x+1)(x+2)}</math></p>

13.  $\frac{17}{6a} - \frac{11}{2a} + \frac{1}{3a}$

14.  $\frac{(n-6) \cdot \frac{n-13}{n+2} + \frac{n^2-1}{(n-6)(n+2)} - \frac{(2n-5)(n+2)}{(n-6) \cdot 2}$   
 $\frac{n^2-19n+78 + (n^2-1) - (2n^2+n-10)}{(n-6)(n+2)}$   
 $\frac{(-18n+87)}{(n-6)(n+2)}$

15.  $\frac{9r-12}{r^2-16} - \frac{r+3}{5r^2+15r} \cdot \frac{15r^2}{r^2+4r}$

16.  $\frac{(v+3)(v-8) + \frac{6}{v-8} \cdot \frac{(2v^2+9v+4)(v+2)}{(2v^2+5v+2)} - \frac{1 \cdot 4}{5 \cdot 4} \cdot \frac{2v \cdot 2v \cdot 4v}{1 \cdot 1v \cdot 2}$   
 $\frac{(v^2-5v-24 + 6v+12) - \frac{(2v^2+9v+4)(v+2)}{(2v^2+5v+2)} - \frac{2v^2}{v}}{(v-8)(v+2)}$   
 $\frac{(v^2+v-12) - \frac{(2v^2+9v+4)(v+2)}{(2v^2+5v+2)} - \frac{2v^2}{v}}{(v-8)(v+2)}$   
 $\frac{(v+4)(v-3) - \frac{(2v+1)(v+2)}{(2v+1)(v+2)} - \frac{v-3}{v-8}}{(v-8)(v+2)}$