

Name _____

Date _____

Unit 7 · Fractions — glossary

All 14 key words, with a worked example for each.

Term	Meaning	Example
numerator	The top number of a fraction: how many parts you have.	<i>In $\frac{3}{4}$ it is 3.</i>
denominator	The bottom number: how many equal parts make the whole.	<i>In $\frac{3}{4}$ it is 4.</i>
equivalent fractions	Fractions with the same value.	$\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$.
simplest form	No common factor except 1.	$\frac{18}{24} = \frac{3}{4}$.
improper fraction	Numerator at least as big as the denominator.	$\frac{7}{4}$.
mixed number	A whole number and a fraction together.	$1 \frac{3}{4}$.
common denominator	The same denominator for both fractions.	<i>For $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$, use 6.</i>
lowest common denominator	The LCM of the denominators.	<i>For 4 and 6 it is 12.</i>
reciprocal	A fraction turned upside down.	<i>The reciprocal of $\frac{3}{5}$ is $\frac{5}{3}$.</i>
cancel	Divide a numerator and denominator by a common factor.	$\frac{4}{9} \times \frac{3}{8} \rightarrow \frac{1}{6}$.
simplify	Divide top and bottom by their HCF.	$\frac{6}{8} = \frac{3}{4}$.
product	The result of multiplying.	$\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$.
unit fraction	A fraction with numerator 1.	$\frac{1}{5}$.
proper fraction	Numerator smaller than denominator.	$\frac{3}{8}$.