

Subtract like fractions

When the denominators match, subtract the numerators and keep the denominator.

1 Study the model.

Worked example



5 parts shaded, 2 crossed out, 3 left

$$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{2}{6} = \frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{2}$$

- ① Shade 5/6. Take away 2/6 by crossing out 2 of the shaded parts.
- ② Subtract the numerators: $5 - 2 = 3$. Keep the denominator: 3/6.
- ③ Simplify: $3/6 = 1/2$.

2 Subtract. Write each answer in simplest form.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. $\frac{4}{5} - \frac{1}{5} = \frac{\boxed{3}}{\boxed{5}}$ | 2. $\frac{6}{7} - \frac{2}{7} = \frac{\boxed{4}}{\boxed{7}}$ | 3. $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{4}{8} = \frac{\boxed{3}}{\boxed{8}}$ |
| 4. $\frac{9}{10} - \frac{3}{10} = \frac{\boxed{6}}{\boxed{10}}$ | 5. $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{\boxed{4}}{\boxed{6}}$ | 6. $\frac{7}{8} - \frac{3}{8} = \frac{\boxed{4}}{\boxed{8}}$ |
| 7. $\frac{8}{9} - \frac{2}{9} = \frac{\boxed{6}}{\boxed{9}}$ | 8. $\frac{11}{12} - \frac{5}{12} = \frac{\boxed{6}}{\boxed{12}}$ | 9. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{\boxed{2}}{\boxed{4}}$ |
| 10. $1 - \frac{3}{8} = \frac{\boxed{5}}{\boxed{8}}$ | 11. $1 - \frac{2}{5} = \frac{\boxed{3}}{\boxed{5}}$ | 12. $\frac{9}{10} - \frac{4}{10} = \frac{\boxed{5}}{\boxed{10}}$ |

3 Solve the lemonade stand problems.

13. The jug holds $7/8$ L of lemonade. Mei pours out $3/8$ L.
How much lemonade is left?

Answer L

14. Tariq has $9/10$ of a bag of lemons. He uses $4/10$ of the bag. What fraction of the bag is left?

Answer