

Set A6 ★ Independent Worksheet 2



INDEPENDENT WORKSHEET

Finding the Least Common Denominator

Which is greater, $\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{4}{5}$? Exactly how much difference is there between these two fractions? If you want to compare, add, or subtract two fractions, it is easier if you rewrite them so they both have the same denominator.

To do this:

- Find the least common multiple of the denominators of the fractions.

multiples of 3 3, 6, 9, 12, 15

multiples of 5 5, 10, 15

The least common multiple of 3 and 5 is 15.

- Multiply the numerator and denominator of each fraction by the same number so the denominators are equal.

$$\frac{2 \times 5}{3 \times 5} = \frac{10}{15} \qquad \frac{4 \times 3}{5 \times 3} = \frac{12}{15} \qquad \frac{4}{5} \text{ is greater than } \frac{2}{3} \text{ by exactly } \frac{2}{15}$$

- Find the least common multiple (LCM) of each pair of numbers.

ex. 4 and 10 4, 8, 12, 16, 20 10, 20 20 is the LCM of 4 and 10	a 5 and 6	b 2 and 7
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- Circle the fraction you think is greater in each pair. Then find out for sure by re-writing the fractions so they have common denominators. Hint: Use the information from problem 1 to help. Put a star by the fraction that turns out to be greater.

ex. $\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) \star \frac{7}{10}$ $\frac{3 \times 5}{4 \times 5} = \frac{15}{20}$ $\frac{7 \times 2}{10 \times 2} = \frac{14}{20}$	a $\frac{4}{5}$ $\frac{5}{6}$	b $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{4}{7}$
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3 Find the least common multiple (LCM) of each pair of numbers.

a 5 and 10	b 6 and 9	c 5 and 7
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4 Circle the fraction you think is greater in each pair. Then find out for sure by rewriting the fractions so they have common denominators. Hint: Use the information from problem 3 to help. Put a star by the fraction that turns out to be greater.

a $\frac{2}{5}$ $\frac{3}{10}$	b $\frac{4}{6}$ $\frac{7}{9}$	c $\frac{4}{5}$ $\frac{5}{7}$
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5 Erica swam $\frac{6}{8}$ of a mile on Monday. She swam $\frac{10}{12}$ of a mile on Tuesday. Did she swim farther on Monday or Tuesday. Exactly how much farther? Use numbers, words, and/or labeled sketches to solve this problem. Show all your work.

Erica swam exactly _____ of a mile farther on _____.