

Algebra 2 Practice – Multiplying, Dividing, Adding and Subtracting Fractions and Rational Expressions

Perform the indicated operation(s) and simplify.

1.  $\frac{72}{35} \times \frac{70}{81}$  =  $\frac{8 \cdot 8}{5 \cdot 7} \cdot \frac{7 \cdot 10}{9 \cdot 9} = \frac{8 \cdot 2 \cdot \cancel{7}}{\cancel{7} \cdot 9} = \frac{16}{9}$

2.  $3\frac{5}{12} \div 11\frac{5}{7}$  Change to improper fractions first. Flip the second guy, then you multiply (by factoring and cancelling.)  
 $\frac{41}{12} \div \frac{82}{7} = \frac{41}{12} \cdot \frac{7}{82} = \frac{41 \cdot 7}{12 \cdot \cancel{41} \cdot 2} = \frac{7}{24}$

3.  $\frac{x^2+2x-8}{x^2+4x+3} \times \frac{3x+3}{x-2}$  Factor + Cancel; Remember you cannot cancel anything with a + or - near it unless everything in the parenthesis cancels  
 $\frac{(x+4)(x-2)}{(x+3)(x+1)} \cdot \frac{3(x+1)}{(x-2)} = \frac{3(x+4)}{(x+3)}$

4.  $\frac{a+2}{a+3} \div \frac{a^2+a-12}{a^2-9} = \frac{(a+2)}{(a+3)} \times \frac{(a^2-9)}{(a^2+a-12)} = \frac{(a+2)}{(a+3)} \cdot \frac{(a+3)(a-3)}{(a+4)(a-3)} = \frac{a+2}{a+4}$

5.  $\frac{\frac{x^2}{x^2-25y^2}}{\frac{x}{5y-x}} = \frac{x^2}{(x^2-25y^2)} \div \frac{x}{(5y-x)} = \frac{x^2 \times (5y-x)}{(x+5y)(x-5y) \times (5y-x)} = \frac{-x}{x+5y}$

Note:  $\frac{-5}{5} = -1$  opposites cancel to -1

$5y-x = -(-5y+x) = -(x-5y)$   
 so  $\frac{-1(x-5y)}{(x-5y)} = -1 = \frac{5y-x}{x-5y}$

6.  $3\frac{3}{14} + 5\frac{3}{35}$

Land of the Common denominator

$3 + \frac{3}{14} + 5 + \frac{3}{35}$   
 $3 + 5 + \frac{3}{14} + \frac{3}{35}$

LCD 2.7 5.7  
 $\frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7}{70}$

$8 + \frac{3 \cdot 5}{14 \cdot 5} + \frac{3 \cdot 2}{35 \cdot 2} = 8 + \frac{15}{70} + \frac{6}{70}$   
 $= 8\frac{21}{70} = 8\frac{3 \cdot 7}{10 \cdot 7} = 8\frac{3}{10}$

7.  $12\frac{4}{9} - 6\frac{11}{12}$

$12 + \frac{4}{9} - (6 + \frac{11}{12}) = 12 + \frac{4}{9} - 6 - \frac{11}{12} = 12 - 6 + \frac{4}{9} - \frac{11}{12}$

LCD  $3^2 \cdot 2^2 \cdot 3 = 2^2 \cdot 3^2 = 36$   
 $6 + \frac{4 \cdot 4}{9 \cdot 4} - \frac{11 \cdot 3}{12 \cdot 3}$

8.  $\frac{y}{y+3} - \frac{6y}{y^2-9} \rightarrow \frac{y}{(y+3)(y-3)} - \frac{6y}{(y+3)(y-3)}$

LCD:  $(y+3)(y-3)$   
 $\frac{y+1}{y-1} + \frac{y+2}{y-2} + \frac{y}{y^2-3y+2} = \frac{y^2-3y-6y}{(y+3)(y-3)} = \frac{y^2-9y}{(y+3)(y-3)}$

$5 + \frac{36}{36} + \frac{16}{36} - \frac{33}{36} = 5\frac{19}{36}$

LCD:  $(y-1)(y-2)$   
 $\frac{(y+1)(y-2)}{(y-1)(y-2)} + \frac{(y+2)(y-1)}{(y-2)(y-1)} + \frac{y}{(y-1)(y-2)}$   
 $\frac{y^2-2y+y-2+y^2-1y+2y+y}{(y-1)(y-2)}$

$\frac{2y^2+y-4}{(y-1)(y-2)}$

OR  
 $12\frac{4}{9} - 6\frac{11}{12}$  LCD: 36  
 $\frac{4}{4} \cdot \frac{112}{9} - \frac{83}{12} \cdot \frac{3}{3} = \frac{448}{36} - \frac{249}{36} = \frac{199}{36} = 5\frac{19}{36}$

10. Add first

$$\frac{\left(\frac{1}{b+2} + \frac{1}{b-5}\right)}{\frac{2b^2-b-3}{b^2-3b-10}} =$$

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

LCD:  $(b+2)(b-5)$

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

$$\frac{\frac{2b-3}{(b+2)(b-5)}}{\frac{2b^2-b-3}{b^2-3b-10}} =$$

$$\frac{(2b-3)}{(b+2)(b-5)} \div \frac{(2b^2-b-3)}{(b^2-3b-10)}$$

↓

$$\frac{(2b-3)}{(b+2)(b-5)} \times \frac{(b^2-3b-10)}{(2b^2-b-3)}$$

$$\frac{(2b-3)}{(b+2)(b-5)} \cdot \frac{(b-5)(b+2)}{(2b-3)(b+1)} = \boxed{\frac{1}{b+1}}$$