

Fractions

What is a fraction?

Fractions are used to represent smaller pieces (or parts) of a whole.

The parts might make up one thing, or more than one thing. Either way, altogether, they make up what's called a *whole*.

A fraction is any part of a group, number or whole.

What are the parts of a fraction?

A fraction has three parts. They are:

The **numerator** which is the number above the bar.

The **denominator** which is the number below the bar.

The **vinculum** which is the bar separating the two numbers.

Numerator

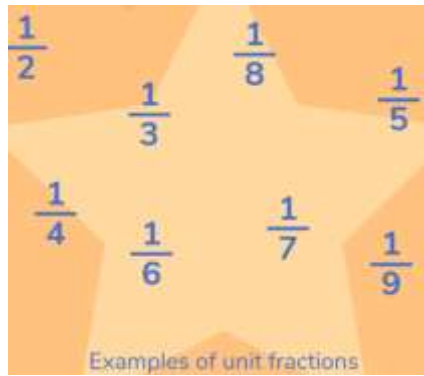
The **NUMERATOR** is the number above the line of the fraction. It tells us how many pieces we have. In this fraction we have 3 pieces.

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Denominator

The **DENOMINATOR** is the number below the line of the fraction. It tells us how many pieces there are altogether. In this fraction there are 4 total pieces.

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What is a unit fraction?

A unit fraction with 1 as its numerator (top number), and a whole number for the denominator (bottom number).

What is a non-unit fraction?

A non-unit fraction is a fraction with a number greater than one as its numerator (top number) and a whole number for the denominator (bottom number).

WHAT IS A NON-UNIT FRACTION?

A **non-unit fraction** is when the top number is more than **one**.

In this example, that means we are talking about **three equal parts** of the whole.

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PRIMA

What is an equivalent fraction?

When two fractions are equivalent, this means they are the same in terms of shape and size but are shown or expressed using different numbers.

For example, these fractions are exactly the same, but because the larger shape is split into a different number of segments in each case, the fraction is expressed in a different way:

