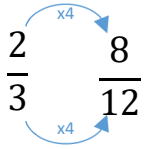
Fractions: Adding and subtracting mixed numbers

Adding mixed numbers:

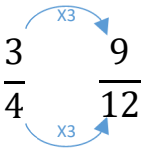
$$2\frac{2}{3} + 1\frac{3}{4} =$$

Keep your jottings separate. Never write them underneath the number sentence that you are working on.



Rewrite the numbers sentence using a common denominator

$$2\frac{8}{12} + 1\frac{9}{12} =$$



Add the wholes and add the fractions.

$$2 + 1 + \frac{8}{12} + \frac{9}{12} = \quad 3 + \frac{17}{12}$$

If you have wholes and improper fractions, convert the improper fractions to a mixed number.

$$= \quad 3 + 1\frac{5}{12}$$

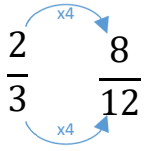
$$= \quad 4\frac{5}{12}$$

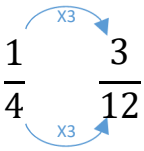
Subtracting mixed numbers:

$$4\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{4} =$$

Rewrite the numbers sentence using a common denominator. Take care not to switch the order.

$$4\frac{8}{12} - \frac{3}{12} =$$





If the fraction in the first number is larger than the fraction in the second number, simply subtract. If not, go to the example below.

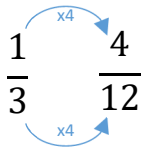
$$4\frac{8}{12} - \frac{3}{12} = \quad 4\frac{5}{12}$$

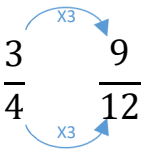
Subtracting mixed numbers:

$$3\frac{1}{3} - \frac{3}{4} =$$

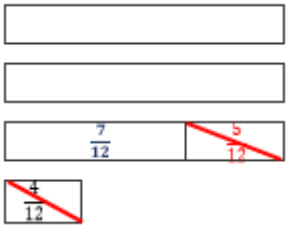
Rewrite the numbers sentence using a common denominator. Take care not to switch the order.

$$3\frac{4}{12} - \frac{9}{12} = \quad 2\frac{7}{12}$$





If the fraction in the first number is smaller than the fraction in the second number, draw bars to show the first number.



Cross off the amount that you need to subtract and count what is left.

$$3\frac{4}{12} - \frac{9}{12} = \quad 2\frac{7}{12}$$