

NAME _____

DATE _____

6 Fractions

6-1 Simplifying Fractions

Objective: To simplify algebraic fractions.

Vocabulary

Simplest form of an algebraic fraction A form of the fraction in which the numerator and denominator have no common factor other than 1 and -1 .

CAUTION In a fraction, you cannot cancel terms. You must factor to

find common factors to cancel. For example, $\frac{x+y}{x+2} \neq \frac{y}{2}$.

Example 1 Simplify: a. $\frac{21x - 14y}{7}$ b. $\frac{3c - 24}{c - 8}$ c. $\frac{2a + 6}{4a - 12}$

Solution Factor. Then look for common factors to cancel.

$$\text{a. } \frac{21x - 14y}{7} = \frac{7(3x - 2y)}{7} = 3x - 2y$$

$$\text{b. } \frac{3c - 24}{c - 8} = \frac{3(c - 8)}{c - 8} = 3 \quad (c \neq 8) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{The denominator can't equal 0.} \\ \text{So } c - 8 \neq 0, \text{ or } c \neq 8. \end{array} \right.$$

$$\text{c. } \frac{2a + 6}{4a - 12} = \frac{2(a + 3)}{2(2a - 6)} = \frac{1(a + 3)}{2(a - 3)} = \frac{1(a + 3)}{2(a - 3)} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{If } a = 3, a - 3 = 0. \\ \text{You must restrict the variable} \\ \text{in the denominator.} \end{array} \right.$$

Simplify. Give any restrictions on the variables.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{1. } \frac{3x - 3y}{9} & \text{2. } \frac{10m - 15n}{5} & \text{3. } \frac{4a - 20}{a - 5} & \text{4. } \frac{3n + 12}{n + 4} & \text{5. } \frac{4n + 24}{n + 6} \\ \text{6. } \frac{2n - 18}{n - 9} & \text{7. } \frac{2m + 3}{6m + 9} & \text{8. } \frac{6x + 6y}{6x - 6y} & \text{9. } \frac{3w + 5}{9w + 15} & \text{10. } \frac{4m - 4n}{4m + 4n} \end{array}$$

Example 2 Simplify $\frac{x^2 - 4}{2x^2 + 3x - 2}$.

$$\text{Solution} \quad \frac{x^2 - 4}{2x^2 + 3x - 2} = \frac{(x - 2)(x + 2)}{(2x - 1)(x + 2)} \quad \text{Factor. } x + 2 \text{ is a common factor.}$$

$$= \frac{x - 2}{2x - 1}, \quad \left(x \neq -2, x \neq \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

To see which values of x to exclude, look at the denominator of the original fraction.

Since $2x - 1 \neq 0$ and $x + 2 \neq 0$, $x \neq \frac{1}{2}$ and $x \neq -2$.

NAME _____

DATE _____

6-1 Simplifying Fractions (continued)

Simplify. Give any restrictions on the variables. Answers given at the back of this Answer Key.

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \text{11. } \frac{3x - 9}{x^2 - 9} & \text{12. } \frac{5y + 30}{y^2 - 36} & \text{13. } \frac{b^2 - 4}{b + 2} & \text{14. } \frac{x^2 - 49}{x + 7} \\ \text{15. } \frac{8n^2 - 72}{4n - 12} & \text{16. } \frac{15c + 25d}{90c^2 - 250d^2} & \text{17. } \frac{4xy}{x^2y - xy^2} & \text{18. } \frac{3x^2 - 6x}{3x^3} \\ \text{19. } \frac{a^2 - 3a - 10}{a^2 - 4} & \text{20. } \frac{a^2 - 5a - 36}{a^2 - 81} & \text{21. } \frac{2w^2 - w - 6}{2w - 4} & \text{22. } \frac{2x^2 + 5x - 3}{x^2 + 2x - 3} \end{array}$$

Example 3 Simplify: $\frac{2x^2 - 3x - 2}{4 - x^2}$

$$\text{Solution} \quad \frac{2x^2 - 3x - 2}{4 - x^2} = \frac{(2x + 1)(x - 2)}{(2 + x)(2 - x)} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Factor. Since } (x - 2) \text{ and } (2 - x) \\ \text{are opposites, } (2 - x) = -(x - 2). \end{array} \right.$$

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

$$= \frac{2x + 1}{-(2 + x)}, \quad \text{or } -\frac{2x + 1}{x + 2}, \quad (x \neq 2, x \neq -2)$$

Simplify. Give any restrictions on the variables. Answers given at the back of this Answer Key.

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \text{23. } \frac{(3n + 2)(n - 3)}{(3 + n)(3 - n)} & \text{24. } \frac{(x - 4)(3x + 4)}{(4 - x)(5x + 2)} & \text{25. } \frac{(x - 5)(2x - 7)}{(5 - x)(3x + 2)} & \text{26. } \frac{(x - 7)(x - 4)}{(7 - x)(x + 2)} \\ \text{27. } \frac{x^2 - 10x + 25}{25 - x^2} & \text{28. } \frac{6 - x}{x^2 - 2x - 24} & \text{29. } \frac{(a - 3)^2}{9 - a^2} & \text{30. } \frac{2n^2 - 72}{6n + 36} \\ \text{31. } \frac{6 + x - x^2}{x^2 - 9} & \text{32. } \frac{10 + 3x - x^2}{x^2 - 4} & \text{33. } \frac{2w^2 - w - 6}{2w - 4} & \text{34. } \frac{3x^2 - 6x}{6x^2 - 7x - 10} \\ \text{35. } \frac{2n^2 + 5n - 3}{4n^2 + 8n - 5} & \text{36. } \frac{2y^2 - 7y + 3}{6y - 2y^2} & \text{37. } \frac{3y^2 - 5y + 2}{6y^2 - y - 2} & \text{38. } \frac{3x^2 - 15x}{3x^2 - 16x + 5} \end{array}$$

Mixed Review Exercises

Simplify. Assume that no denominator equals zero.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{1. } 10(\frac{1}{2}u + \frac{1}{5}v) & \text{2. } 6m - 4n & \text{3. } \frac{20a^6b^5}{35a^2b^3} \cdot \frac{4a^4b^2}{7} \\ \text{5u} + 2v & (-36m + 24n)(-\frac{1}{6}) & \\ \text{4. } \frac{(-2y)^4}{(y^2)^4} \cdot \frac{16}{y^4} & \text{5. } \frac{2x^4 + 6x^3 + 10x^2}{2x^2} & \text{6. } (-10)(-6)(-2)(-5) \quad 600 \\ & x^2 + 3x + 5 & \end{array}$$

Solve.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{7. } 3(x + 1) + 1 = 25 & \{7\} & \text{8. } 8y - (5y + 4) = 11 \quad \{5\} \\ \text{9. } (2n - 3) - (5 - 2n) = 16 & & \{6\} \end{array}$$

6-2 Multiplying Fractions**Objective:** To multiply algebraic fractions.

Multiplication Rule for Fractions To multiply fractions, you multiply their numerators and multiply their denominators.

$$\frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ac}{bd} \quad \text{For example, } \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{5}{8} = \frac{3 \cdot 5}{4 \cdot 8} = \frac{15}{32}.$$

Example 1 Multiply: $\frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{9}{10}$

Solution 1 $\frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{9}{10} = \frac{5 \cdot 9}{6 \cdot 10} = \frac{45}{60} = \frac{3}{4}$ You can multiply first and then simplify.

Solution 2 $\frac{\cancel{5}}{2} \cdot \frac{\cancel{9}^3}{\cancel{10}^2} = \frac{3}{4}$ You can simplify first and then multiply.

Multiply. Express each product in simplest form.

$$\begin{array}{llll} 1. \frac{3}{7} \cdot \frac{35}{9} \frac{5}{3} & 2. \frac{5}{16} \cdot \frac{4}{15} \frac{1}{12} & 3. \frac{12}{7} \cdot \frac{14}{9} \frac{8}{3} & 4. -\frac{5}{2} \cdot \frac{16}{25} -\frac{8}{5} \\ 5. \frac{2}{5} \cdot \frac{5}{9} \frac{1}{10} \frac{1}{5} & 6. \frac{8}{5} \cdot \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{15}{16} \frac{9}{8} & 7. (-\frac{3}{2})^2 \cdot \frac{8}{9} 2 & 8. (-3)^2 \cdot \frac{25}{12} \frac{75}{4} \end{array}$$

Example 2 a. $\frac{9x}{y^2} \cdot \frac{y^3}{24}$ b. $\frac{x^2 + x - 12}{x^2 + 5x} \cdot \frac{x^2 - 25}{x - 3}$

Solution a. $\frac{9x}{y^2} \cdot \frac{y^3}{24} = \frac{\cancel{9} \cdot 3x}{\cancel{y}^2} \cdot \frac{\cancel{y}^2 \cdot y}{\cancel{8}} = \frac{3xy}{8} (y \neq 0)$ — Multiply the numerators.
b. $\frac{x^2 + x - 12}{x^2 + 5x} \cdot \frac{x^2 - 25}{x - 3} = \frac{(x+4)(x-3)}{x(x+5)} \cdot \frac{(x+5)(x-5)}{(x-3)}$

$$= \frac{(x+4)(x-5)}{x} (x \neq 0, x \neq -5, x \neq 3)$$

You can leave the answer in factored form.

CAUTION From now on, assume that no denominator equals zero. You won't need to show the excluded values, but know what they are.

Multiply. Express each product in simplest form.

$$\begin{array}{llll} 9. \frac{8}{x^2} \cdot \frac{x^3}{4} 2x & 10. \frac{7y}{5} \cdot \frac{10}{21y} \frac{2}{3} & 11. \frac{a}{c} \cdot \frac{c}{d} \cdot \frac{d}{e} \frac{a}{e} & 12. \frac{6}{x^2} \cdot \frac{5x}{12} \frac{5}{2x} \\ 13. \frac{6w}{v} \cdot \frac{v^3}{3w^2} \frac{2v^2}{w} & 14. \frac{8a}{11b^3} \cdot \frac{33b}{4a^2} \frac{6}{ab^2} & 15. \frac{2de^2}{5e^2f} \cdot \frac{f^2}{4d} \frac{f}{10} & 16. \frac{3rs^2}{4t} \cdot \frac{8s^2}{9rs} \frac{2st}{3} \end{array}$$

6-2 Multiplying Fractions (continued)

Multiply. Express each product in simplest form.

$$\begin{array}{ll} 17. \frac{x-3}{x^2} \cdot \frac{2x}{x^2-9} \frac{2}{x(x+3)} & 18. \frac{x^2-4}{8x} \cdot \frac{4x^2}{5x+10} \frac{x(x-2)}{10} \\ 19. \frac{a^2-b^2}{a^2} \cdot \frac{a}{2(b-a)} -\frac{a+b}{2a} & 20. \frac{m}{3(n-m)} \cdot \frac{m^2-n^2}{m^2} -\frac{m+n}{3m} \end{array}$$

Rule of Exponents for a Power of a Quotient

For every positive integer m , $(\frac{a}{b})^m = \frac{a^m}{b^m}$. For example, $(\frac{2}{3})^3 = \frac{2^3}{3^3}$.

Example 3 Simplify: a. $(\frac{x}{2})^4$ b. $(-\frac{x}{3})^2 \cdot \frac{9}{5x}$

Solution a. $(\frac{x}{2})^4 = \frac{x^4}{2^4} = \frac{x^4}{16}$
b. $(-\frac{x}{3})^2 \cdot \frac{9}{5x} = \frac{x^2}{9} \cdot \frac{9}{5x} = \frac{x \cdot \cancel{x}}{\cancel{9}} \cdot \frac{\cancel{9}}{5 \cdot \cancel{x}} = \frac{x}{5}$

Multiply. Express each product in simplest form.

$$\begin{array}{llll} 21. (\frac{a}{4})^2 \frac{a^2}{16} & 22. (\frac{c}{3})^3 \frac{c^3}{27} & 23. (\frac{m}{5})^3 \frac{m^3}{125} & 24. (\frac{y}{4})^3 \frac{y^3}{64} \\ 25. (\frac{2n}{5})^2 \frac{4n^2}{25} & 26. (\frac{3x}{4})^2 \frac{9x^2}{16} & 27. (\frac{3w}{7})^2 \frac{9w^2}{49} & 28. (\frac{7b}{2})^2 \frac{49b^2}{4} \\ 29. (\frac{2a}{3b^3})^2 \frac{4a^2}{9b^6} & 30. (\frac{4m}{5n^2})^2 \frac{16m^2}{25n^4} & 31. (-\frac{x}{3y})^2 \frac{x^2}{9y^2} & 32. -(\frac{4b^3}{5})^2 \frac{16b^6}{25} \\ 33. (\frac{x}{y})^2 \cdot \frac{y}{x} \frac{x}{y} & 34. (\frac{2x}{y})^3 \cdot \frac{y^2}{4} \frac{2x^3}{y} & 35. (-\frac{x}{2y})^2 \left(-\frac{4y}{x}\right) -\frac{x}{y} 36. (\frac{2z}{y})^3 \cdot \frac{3yz}{8} \frac{3z^4}{y^2} \end{array}$$

37. Find the area of a square if each side has length $\frac{3x}{4}$ in. $\frac{9x^2}{16}$ in.²

38. Find the volume of a cube if each edge has length $\frac{2n}{3}$ in. $\frac{8n^3}{27}$ in.³

$$1. (a+3)(a+8) \quad 2. (x-7)(x+2) \quad 3. (9x^2+4)(3x+2)(3x-2) \quad 4. (2x+1)(x+2)$$

Mixed Review Exercises 5. $(5y+3z)(5y-3z)$ 6. $(c+5)^2$

Factor completely.

$$\begin{array}{llll} 1. a^2 + 11a + 24 & 2. x^2 - 5x - 14 & 3. 81x^4 - 16 & \\ 4. 2x^2 + 5x + 2 & 5. 25y^2 - 9z^2 & 6. c^2 + 10c + 25 & \\ 7. xy + 5y - 4xz - 20z & 8. 9x^2 - 6x + 1 & 9. 3x^2 - 11x - 4 & \\ 10. x^4 + 6x^2 - 5x^3 & 11. n^2 + 4n - 12 & 12. y^2 - 5y - 36 & \\ 13. (3x+1)(x-4) & 14. x^2(x-2)(x-3) & 15. (n+6)(n-2) & 16. (y-9)(y+4) \end{array}$$

NAME _____

DATE _____

6-3 Dividing Fractions**Objective:** To divide algebraic fractions.

Division Rule for Fractions To divide by a fraction, you multiply by its reciprocal. Remember that the reciprocal of a number n is the number $\frac{1}{n}$ for which $n \cdot \frac{1}{n} = 1$.

$$\frac{a}{b} \div \frac{c}{d} = \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{d}{c} \quad \text{For example, } \frac{3}{5} \div \frac{2}{7} = \frac{3}{5} \cdot \frac{7}{2} = \frac{21}{10}.$$

Example 1 Divide: $\frac{x}{3y} \div \frac{xy}{9}$

Solution
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x}{3y} \div \frac{xy}{9} &= \frac{x}{3y} \cdot \frac{9}{xy} && \text{Multiply by the reciprocal of } \frac{xy}{9}. \\ &= \frac{x}{3 \cancel{y}} \cdot \frac{3 \cancel{x}}{\cancel{x} \cdot y} && \text{Factor and simplify.} \\ &= \frac{3}{y^2} \end{aligned}$$

Divide. Give your answers in simplest form.

5. xy

10. $\frac{9n^2}{m}$

1. $\frac{8}{5} \div \frac{16}{25} \frac{5}{2}$
2. $\frac{3}{4} \div \frac{9}{8} \frac{2}{3}$
3. $\frac{a}{10} \div \frac{a}{2} \frac{1}{5}$
4. $\frac{2x}{5} \div \frac{x}{15} 6$
5. $\frac{x^2}{y} \div \frac{x}{y^2}$
6. $\frac{4n^2}{5} \div \frac{8n}{25} \frac{5n}{2}$
7. $\frac{ab}{4} \div \frac{a}{b} \frac{b^2}{4}$
8. $\frac{c}{3d} \div \frac{c^2}{9d^2} \frac{3d}{c}$
9. $\frac{2x^2}{3y} \div \frac{xy}{9} \frac{6x}{y^2}$
10. $\frac{3n}{4m^2} \div \frac{1}{12mn}$
11. $\frac{x^2y}{2} \div xy \frac{x}{2}$
12. $\frac{8a^2}{3b} \div 4a \frac{2a}{3b}$
13. $1 \div \left(\frac{2x}{3}\right)^2 \frac{9}{4x^2}$
14. $9 \div \left(\frac{3}{n}\right)^2 n^2$
15. $16 \div \left(\frac{2}{a}\right)^3 2a^3$

Example 2 Divide: $\frac{15}{x^2 - 16} \div \frac{20}{x - 4}$

Solution
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{15}{x^2 - 16} \div \frac{20}{x - 4} &= \frac{15}{x^2 - 16} \cdot \frac{x - 4}{20} && \text{Multiply by the reciprocal.} \\ &= \frac{15}{(x + 4)(x - 4)} \cdot \frac{x - 4}{20} && \text{Factor and simplify.} \\ &= \frac{3}{4(x + 4)} \end{aligned}$$

Divide. Give your answers in simplest form.

16. $\frac{3 + 3b}{6} \div \frac{1 + b}{9} \frac{9}{2}$
17. $\frac{4n - 2}{8n} \div \frac{2n - 1}{24} \frac{6}{n}$
18. $\frac{x^2 - 4}{3} \div \frac{x + 2}{9} 3(x - 2)$
19. $\frac{x^2 - 16}{3x} \div \frac{x - 4}{6} \frac{2(x + 4)}{x}$
20. $\frac{x^2 - 9}{3} \div \frac{x + 3}{6} 2(x - 3)$
21. $\frac{x^2 - 25}{4x} \div \frac{x - 5}{12} \frac{3(x + 5)}{x}$

NAME _____ DATE _____

6-3 Dividing Fractions (continued)

Divide. Give your answers in simplest form.

22. $\frac{2}{x - 3} \div \frac{2}{3 - x} - 1$
23. $\frac{4}{6 - 3a} \div \frac{6}{8 - 4a} \frac{8}{9}$
24. $\frac{x^2 + 2x}{x^2 - 4} \div \frac{x + 2}{x - 2} \frac{x}{x + 2}$
25. $\frac{1}{3a - 12} \div \frac{1}{2a - 8} \frac{2}{3}$
26. $\frac{3x - 3y}{x} \div \frac{x^2 - y^2}{x^2} \frac{3x}{x + y}$
27. $\frac{4}{n^2 - 16} \div \frac{8n - 32}{n + 4}$

Example 3 Divide: $\frac{x^2 - 3x - 10}{2x - 6} \div \frac{x^2 - 4}{x^2 + x - 6}$

Solution
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x^2 - 3x - 10}{2x - 6} \div \frac{x^2 - 4}{x^2 + x - 6} &= \frac{x^2 - 3x - 10}{2x - 6} \cdot \frac{x^2 + x - 6}{x^2 - 4} \\ &= \frac{(x - 5)(x + 2)}{2(x - 3)} \cdot \frac{(x + 3)(x - 2)}{(x + 2)(x - 2)} \\ &= \frac{(x - 5)(x + 3)}{2(x - 3)} \quad \left\{ \text{Stop; no further simplification is possible.} \right. \end{aligned}$$

Divide. Give your answers in simplest form.

28. $\frac{x^2 - 9}{x^2 - 4} \div \frac{x^2 - x - 6}{x^2 + x - 6} \frac{(x + 3)^2}{(x + 2)^2}$
29. $\frac{x^2 + x - 20}{5x + 25} \div \frac{x^2 - 4x - 5}{x^2 - 25} \frac{(x - 4)(x + 5)}{5(x + 1)}$
30. $\frac{x^2 - y^2}{x^2 + y^2} \div (x - y) \frac{x + y}{x^2 + y^2}$
31. $\frac{x^2 - x - 6}{x^2 + 2x + 1} \div \frac{x + 2}{x + 1} \frac{x - 3}{x + 1}$
32. $\frac{x^2 - 3x + 2}{x^2 + 3x + 2} \div \frac{4x - 8}{8x + 8} \frac{2(x - 1)}{x + 2}$
33. $\frac{x^2 - 4}{x + 2} \div \frac{x - 2}{x + 1} x + 1$
34. $\frac{x^2 - 25}{x^2 - 16} \div \frac{4x + 20}{8x - 32} \frac{2(x - 5)}{x + 4}$
35. $\frac{4x^2 - y^2}{4y^2 - x^2} \div \frac{2x - y}{2y - x} \frac{2x + y}{2y + x}$
36. $\frac{x^2 - 3x + 2}{x^2 - 7x + 10} \div \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2 - 4x - 5} 1$
37. $\frac{x^2 - 8x + 15}{x^2 - 9x + 14} \div \frac{x^2 - 9}{x^2 + x - 6} \frac{x - 5}{x - 7}$
38. $\frac{2x^2 + 7x + 3}{2x^2 + 5x + 2} \div \frac{x^2 - 7x - 30}{x^2 - 6x - 40} \frac{x + 4}{x + 2}$
39. $\frac{x^2 + 5x - 6}{x^2 - x - 20} \div \frac{x^2 + 2x - 3}{x^2 - 2x - 15} \frac{x + 6}{x + 4}$

Mixed Review Exercises

Solve.

1. $3k = 4k - 11 \quad \{11\}$
2. $5p + 10 = 45 \quad \{7\}$
3. $(4b - 3) - (3 - 2b) = 30 \quad \{6\}$
4. $\frac{1}{3}(9k - 6) = 7 \quad \{3\}$
5. $2n^3 - 32n = 0 \quad \{0, -4, 4\}$
6. $2x^2 + x = 3 \quad \{-\frac{3}{2}, 1\}$

Give the prime factorization of each number.

7. $225 \quad 3^2 \cdot 5^2$
8. $136 \quad 2^3 \cdot 17$
9. $140 \quad 2^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$
10. $1250 \quad 2 \cdot 5^4$

6-4 Least Common Denominators

Objective: To express two or more fractions with their least common denominator.

Example 1 Complete: a. $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{?}{15}$ b. $\frac{5}{2a} = \frac{?}{18a^2}$

Solution To write a fraction in a different form, you can multiply the numerator and denominator by the same nonzero number.

a. $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{?}{15}$ 3 is multiplied by 5 to get 15.
 $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{2 \cdot 5}{3 \cdot 5} = \frac{10}{15}$ Therefore, multiply 2 by 5 to get 10.

b. $\frac{5}{2a} = \frac{?}{18a^2}$ 2a is multiplied by 9a to get 18a².
 $\frac{5}{2a} = \frac{5 \cdot 9a}{2a \cdot 9a} = \frac{45a}{18a^2}$ Therefore, multiply 5 by 9a to get 45a.

Complete. 6. $3(2n - 3)$ 7. $48x$ 8. $15a^2$ 9. $6x^2$ 10. $9mn^2$
 1. $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{?}{18}$ 12 2. $\frac{3}{5} = \frac{?}{20}$ 12 3. $\frac{5}{8} = \frac{?}{56}$ 35 4. $\frac{2a}{15} = \frac{?}{45}$ 6a 5. $\frac{x-2}{3} = \frac{4(x-2)}{12}$
 6. $\frac{2n-3}{5} = \frac{?}{15}$ 7. $\frac{8}{15x} = \frac{?}{90x^2}$ 8. $\frac{5}{3a} = \frac{?}{9a^3}$ 9. $\frac{x}{3y} = \frac{?}{18xy}$ 10. $\frac{3n}{4m} = \frac{?}{12m^2n}$

Example 2 Complete: $\frac{2}{x-3} = \frac{?}{(x-3)(x+4)}$

Solution $\frac{2}{x-3} = \frac{?}{(x-3)(x+4)}$ (x - 3) is multiplied by (x + 4).
 $\frac{2}{x-3} = \frac{2(x+4)}{(x-3)(x+4)}$ Therefore, multiply 2 by (x + 4).

Complete.

11. $\frac{6}{n-1} = \frac{?}{(n-1)(n+4)}$ 6(n + 4)

12. $\frac{4}{x+2} = \frac{?}{(x+2)(x-2)}$ 4(x - 2)

13. $\frac{3}{2x-1} = \frac{?}{(2x-1)^2}$ 3(2x - 1)

14. $\frac{5y}{x-7} = \frac{?}{(x-7)^2}$ 5y(x - 7)

15. $\frac{7}{x-3} = \frac{?}{4x-12}$ 28

16. $\frac{3}{2x+5} = \frac{?}{6x+15}$ 9

17. $\frac{3}{x+2} = \frac{?}{x^2-4}$ 3(x - 2)

18. $\frac{4}{x-1} = \frac{?}{x^2-1}$ 4(x + 1)

19. $\frac{5}{3-y} = \frac{?}{3y-y^2}$ 5y

20. $\frac{3x}{2+x} = \frac{?}{2x+x^2}$ 3x²

6-4 Least Common Denominator (continued)

Example 3 Find the LCD of $\frac{5}{6}$, $\frac{7}{20}$, and $\frac{8}{42}$.

- Solution**
- Factor each denominator into prime numbers.
 $6 = 2 \cdot 3$ $20 = 2^2 \cdot 5$ $42 = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$
 - Greatest power of 2: 2^2
 Greatest power of 3: 3 $2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 = 420$
 Greatest power of 5: 5
 Greatest power of 7: 7 The LCD is 420.

Find the LCD of each group of fractions.

21. $\frac{1}{4}, \frac{5}{6}$ 12 22. $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{8}$ 8 23. $\frac{3}{2}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{1}{4}$ 20 24. $\frac{2}{3}, \frac{5}{9}, \frac{1}{6}$ 18 25. $\frac{5}{8}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{4}{3}$ 120 26. $\frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{5}{9}$ 36

Example 4 Find the LCD of $\frac{5}{9x-36}$ and $\frac{4}{5x-20}$.

- Solution**
- Factor each denominator completely. Factor integers into primes.
 $9x - 36 = 9(x - 4) = 3^2(x - 4)$ $5x - 20 = 5(x - 4)$
 - Form the product of the greatest power of each factor.
 $3^2 \cdot 5(x - 4) = 45(x - 4)$
- The LCD is 45(x - 4).

36. $10(x+5)$ 37. $(a+1)(a-1)$ 38. $(a+2)(a-2)$

Find the LCD of each group of fractions.

27. $\frac{a+2b}{4}, \frac{2b-a}{6}$ 12 28. $\frac{n-2}{12}, \frac{n+3}{15}$ 60 29. $\frac{n-1}{15}, \frac{n+3}{20}$ 60
 30. $\frac{2x+3}{12}, \frac{x-4}{8}$ 24 31. $\frac{x+2y}{25}, \frac{2x+y}{20}$ 100 32. $\frac{x^2-x-6}{21}, \frac{x^2-9}{35}$ 105
 33. $\frac{2}{3t}, \frac{5}{9rt^2}$ 9rt² 34. $\frac{5}{xy}, \frac{6}{y^2}$ xy² 35. $\frac{11}{m^2n}, \frac{17}{mn^2}$ m²n²
 36. $\frac{3}{2x+10}, \frac{x}{5x+25}$ 37. $\frac{3a}{a+1}, \frac{2}{a-1}$ 38. $\frac{3}{a^2-4}, \frac{5}{a+2}$
 39. $\frac{x}{x^2+3x}, \frac{2x}{x^2-3x}$ $\frac{x(x+3)(x-3)}{x^2+3x}$ 40. $\frac{7}{n+3}, \frac{n-1}{n^2+n-6}$ $\frac{(n+3)(n-2)}{n^2+n-6}$ 41. $\frac{a+1}{a-2}, \frac{a-5}{a^2-5a+6}$ $\frac{(a-2)(a-3)}{a^2-5a+6}$

Mixed Review Exercises 1. $3(n-3q+5)$ 3. $(x-8)(x-2)$ 4. $(x-9)(x+4)$

Factor completely.

1. $3n - 9q + 15$
 2. $2x^2 - 8$ 2(x + 2)(x - 2)
 4. $x^2 - 5x - 36$
 5. $2x^2 - 5x - 3$
 7. $x^2 - 4x - 32$
 8. $x^2 + 24x + 144$ (x + 12)²
 9. $n^2 - 6n$ n(n - 6)

6-6 Mixed Expressions

Objective: To write mixed expressions as fractions in simplest form.

Vocabulary

Mixed number The sum of an integer and a fraction. For example, $2\frac{1}{3}$.

Mixed expression The sum or difference of a polynomial and a fraction.

For example, $m + \frac{3}{m}$.

Example 1 Write $2\frac{1}{3}$ as a fraction in simplest form.

Solution $2\frac{1}{3} = 2 + \frac{1}{3}$
 $= \frac{2}{1} + \frac{1}{3}$ Write 2 as $\frac{2}{1}$.
 $= \frac{6}{3} + \frac{1}{3}$ LCD = 3
 $= \frac{7}{3}$

Write as a fraction in simplest form.

1. $3\frac{2}{3} - \frac{11}{3}$	2. $2\frac{1}{8} - \frac{17}{8}$
3. $-3\frac{3}{5} - \frac{18}{5}$	4. $-4\frac{5}{7} - \frac{33}{7}$
5. $5\frac{1}{6} - \frac{31}{6}$	6. $6\frac{1}{5} - \frac{31}{5}$
7. $-2\frac{3}{4} - \frac{11}{4}$	8. $-1\frac{2}{9} - \frac{11}{9}$

Example 2 Write each expression as a fraction in simplest form.

a. $x + \frac{2}{x}$ b. $3 - \frac{x-1}{x+2}$

Solution a. $x + \frac{2}{x} = \frac{x}{1} + \frac{2}{x}$ Write x as $\frac{x}{1}$.
 $= \frac{x^2}{x} + \frac{2}{x}$ LCD = x $\left(\frac{x}{1} = \frac{x \cdot x}{1 \cdot x} = \frac{x^2}{x}\right)$
 $= \frac{x^2+2}{x}$

b. $3 - \frac{x-1}{x+2} = \frac{3}{1} - \frac{x-1}{x+2}$ Write 3 as $\frac{3}{1}$.
 $= \frac{3(x+2)}{x+2} - \frac{x-1}{x+2}$ LCD = $x+2$ $\left(\frac{3}{1} = \frac{3(x+2)}{x+2}\right)$
 $= \frac{3x+6-x+1}{x+2}$
 $= \frac{2x+7}{x+2}$

Write each expression as a fraction in simplest form.

9. $6 + \frac{1}{x} - \frac{6x+1}{x}$ 10. $2 + \frac{5}{a} - \frac{2a+5}{a}$ 11. $3 - \frac{2}{x} - \frac{3x-2}{x}$ 12. $5 - \frac{3}{n} - \frac{5n-3}{n}$
13. $5a - \frac{2}{a} - \frac{5a^2-2}{a}$ 14. $6n - \frac{4}{n} - \frac{6n^2-4}{n}$ 15. $\frac{3}{y} + y - \frac{3+y^2}{y}$ 16. $4 - \frac{m}{n} - \frac{4n-m}{n}$

6-6 Mixed Expressions (continued) 26. $\frac{6a^2 + 4a - 3}{2a + 1}$

27. $\frac{6a^3 + 9a^2 - a - 1}{2a + 3}$

Write each expression as a fraction in simplest form. 28. $\frac{x^3 + x^2 - 2x - 1}{x + 1}$

17. $2 + \frac{x}{y} - \frac{2y+x}{y}$	18. $3 - \frac{2}{x+1} - \frac{3x+1}{x+1}$	19. $7 + \frac{y}{y-2} - \frac{8y-14}{y-2}$
20. $\frac{x}{x+3} - 4 - \frac{3x+12}{x+3}$	21. $3x + \frac{x}{x-1} - \frac{3x^2-2x}{x-1}$	22. $5x - \frac{x}{x+2} - \frac{5x^2+9x}{x+2}$
23. $3y + \frac{y}{y-2} - \frac{3y^2-5y}{y-2}$	24. $\frac{2n}{2n+3} + 1 - \frac{4n+3}{2n+3}$	25. $2x + \frac{x-1}{x+2} - \frac{2x^2+5x-1}{x+2}$
26. $3a + \frac{a-3}{2a+1}$	27. $3a^2 - \frac{a+1}{2a+3}$	28. $x^2 - \frac{2x+1}{x+1}$

Example 3 Write as a fraction in simplest form: $x + \frac{2x-3}{x+1} + \frac{5}{x+1}$

Solution $x + \frac{2x-3}{x+1} + \frac{5}{x+1} = \frac{x(x+1)}{x+1} + \frac{2x-3}{x+1} + \frac{5}{x+1}$ The LCD is $x+1$.
 $= \frac{x^2+x+2x-3+5}{x+1}$ Add the numerators.
 $= \frac{x^2+3x+2}{x+1}$
 $= \frac{(x+2)(x+1)}{x+1}$ Factor.
 $= \frac{x+2}{1}$ Simplify.
 $= x+2$

Answers given at the back of
Write each expression as a fraction in simplest form. this Answer Key.

29. $\frac{x}{x-1} + \frac{x-1}{x} - 2$	30. $x + \frac{2x+1}{x-2}$	31. $\frac{3}{x+1} + \frac{x}{x+1} - 1$
32. $\frac{x}{x+3} + \frac{x}{x-3} - 3$	33. $x - \frac{4}{x+1} - \frac{3x-1}{x+1}$	34. $\frac{x-1}{x} + \frac{3}{x-1} + 2$
35. $\frac{2a}{a+1} + \frac{3}{a-1} - 1$	36. $2 - \frac{x}{x+3} - \frac{1}{x+3}$	37. $\frac{3x}{x-1} + \frac{2}{x+1} + 1$

Mixed Review Exercises

Simplify. 4. $\frac{3n^2 + n - 2}{9}$

1. $\frac{3a-3b}{3a+12b} - \frac{a-b}{a+4b}$	2. $\frac{a^2 - 7a + 10}{25 - a^2} - \frac{a-2}{a+5}$	3. $\frac{3x^2}{2y^2} + \frac{9xy}{8} - \frac{12x^2 + 9xy^3}{8y^2}$
4. $\frac{n^2 - 1}{3} + \frac{n+1}{9}$	5. $\frac{8}{y^4} \cdot \frac{y^7}{2} - 4y^3$	6. $(-3b^3)^2 - 9b^6$

Find the least common denominator.

7. $\frac{1}{3xy}, \frac{2}{y^2} - 3xy^2$	8. $\frac{3}{a^2}, \frac{2}{ab} - a^2b$	9. $\frac{1}{x-2}, \frac{3}{x+2}, \frac{5}{x^2-4} - x^2 - 4$
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NAME _____

DATE _____

6-7 Polynomial Long Division**Objective:** To divide polynomials.**Example 1** Divide $13x - 35 + 12x^2$ by $3x + 7$. Write the answer as a polynomial.**Solution** Rewrite $13x - 35 + 12x^2$ in order of decreasing degree of x as $12x^2 + 13x - 35$.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4x - 5 \\ 3x + 7 \overline{)12x^2 + 13x - 35} \\ 12x^2 + 28x \\ -15x - 35 \\ -15x - 35 \\ \hline \text{Remainder} \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Think: } 12x^2 \div 3x = ? \\ \text{Multiply } 3x + 7 \text{ by } 4x \text{ and subtract.} \end{array} \right.$
 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Think: } -15x \div 3x = ? \\ \text{Multiply } 3x + 7 \text{ by } -5 \text{ and subtract.} \end{array} \right.$

Check: $12x^2 + 13x - 35 \stackrel{?}{=} (4x - 5)(3x + 7) + 0$ { Multiply the divisor by the quotient. Add the remainder.
 $12x^2 + 13x - 35 = 12x^2 + 13x - 35 \checkmark$

Therefore $\frac{12x^2 + 13x - 35}{3x + 7} = 4x - 5$.

Since the remainder is 0, both $3x + 7$ and $4x - 5$ are factors of $12x^2 + 13x - 35$.

Divide. Write the answer as a polynomial.

1. $\frac{x^2 + 8x + 15}{x + 5}$
2. $\frac{x^2 - 20 - x}{x - 5}$
3. $\frac{n^2 - 3n - 18}{n - 6}$
4. $\frac{-22 + n^2 - 9n}{n + 2}$
5. $\frac{n^2 + 7n + 10}{n + 5}$
6. $\frac{3x - 18 + x^2}{x - 3}$
7. $\frac{-3 - 5x + 2x^2}{2x + 1}$
8. $\frac{x^2 - 12x + 32}{x - 8}$
9. $\frac{x^2 - 48 + 8x}{x - 4}$
10. $\frac{x^2 - 8x - 33}{x - 11}$
11. $\frac{12 + n^2 - 7n}{n - 3}$
12. $\frac{2x + x^2 - 15}{x + 5}$
13. $\frac{6x^2 + x - 40}{3x + 8}$
14. $\frac{3x^2 - 10x - 8}{3x + 2}$
15. $\frac{3a^2 + 8a + 5}{3a + 5}$
16. $\frac{-20 + 2x^2 + 3x}{x + 4}$

Example 2 Divide: $\frac{2a^3 + 5}{a - 2}$. Write the answer as a mixed expression.**Solution**

$$\begin{array}{r} 2a^2 + 4a + 8 \\ a - 2 \overline{)2a^3 + 0a^2 + 0a + 5} \\ 2a^3 - 4a^2 \\ \hline 4a^2 + 0a \\ 4a^2 - 8a \\ \hline 8a + 5 \\ 8a - 16 \\ \hline 21 \quad \longleftarrow \text{Remainder} \end{array}$$

Using zero coefficients, insert missing terms in decreasing degree of a in $2a^3 + 5$. Then divide.

Division ends when the remainder is either 0 or of lesser degree than the divisor.

(Check is on next page.)

NAME _____ DATE _____

6-7 Polynomial Long Division (continued)

Check: $2a^3 + 5 \stackrel{?}{=} (2a^2 + 4a + 8)(a - 2) + 21$
 $2a^3 + 5 \stackrel{?}{=} 2a^3 + 4a^2 + 8a - 4a^2 - 8a - 16 + 21$
 $2a^3 + 5 \stackrel{?}{=} 2a^3 + (4a^2 - 4a^2) + (8a - 8a) - 16 + 21$
 $2a^3 + 5 = 2a^3 + 5 \checkmark$
Therefore $\frac{2a^3 + 5}{a - 2} = 2a^2 + 4a + 8 + \frac{21}{a - 2}$.

Divide. Write the answer as a polynomial or a mixed expression.

17. $\frac{a^2 + 3a - 7}{a - 2}$
18. $\frac{k^2 - 7k + 13}{k - 3}$
19. $\frac{6x^2 + x - 6}{3x + 2}$
20. $\frac{x^2 + 9}{x - 3}$
21. $\frac{2a^2 + 5a - 10}{2a - 1}$
22. $\frac{5 - 2x + x^2}{x - 1}$
23. $\frac{a^3 - 2a^2 - 3a + 4}{a + 1}$
24. $\frac{a^3 + 1}{a + 1}$
25. $\frac{n^3 - 8}{n - 2}$
26. $\frac{n^2 + 2n + 4}{2x - 1}$
27. $\frac{2x^3 + 9x^2 - 27}{x + 3}$
28. $\frac{x^3 + 4x^2 - 6}{x + 2}$
29. $\frac{x^3 - 4x^2 + x + 6}{x - 2}$
30. $\frac{x^3 + 6x^2 - x - 30}{x - 2}$
31. $\frac{2x^3 - x^2 - 5x - 2}{2x + 1}$
32. $\frac{x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x + 4}{x + 2}$
33. $\frac{4x^3 - 8x^2 + 7x - 2}{2x - 1}$
34. $\frac{3x^3 - 7x^2 - 22x + 8}{3x - 1}$
35. $\frac{8x^3 - 18x^2 + 27x + 8}{4x + 1}$
36. $\frac{2x^4 + 5x^3 - 4x^2 - 2x + 3}{x + 3}$

Mixed Review Exercises**Simplify.**

1. $\frac{x + 5}{3} + \frac{2x - 3}{3}$
2. $\frac{a^2}{a + 2} - \frac{4}{a + 2}$
3. $\frac{3}{x} + \frac{1}{2}$
4. $\frac{3c + 1}{4c} + \frac{5}{2c}$
5. $\frac{3x + 1}{4} - \frac{2x - 3}{6}$
6. $\frac{x}{x^2 - 16} - \frac{1}{2x + 8}$
7. $x + \frac{3}{x}$
8. $2 + \frac{n}{n - 2}$
9. $y + 2 + \frac{2y - 1}{y - 1}$