Adding & Subtracting Fractions with Unlike Denominators

Step 1: Find an equivalent fraction for both fractions, so that they both have the same denominator

$\frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{6}$

a) find the LCM of the denominators

8: 8, 16, **24**, 32

6: 6, 12,18, **24**

b) find the equivalent fraction

$\frac{1}{8} \times \frac{3}{3} = \frac{3}{24}$

$\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{4}{4} = \frac{4}{24}$

Step 2: Once the denominators are the same, add or subtract the numerators

$\frac{3}{24} + \frac{4}{24} = \frac{7}{}$

Step 3: The denominator stays the same

$\frac{3}{24} + \frac{4}{24} = \frac{7}{24}$

Step 4: Simplify if necessary

Practice

$\frac{3}{5} - \frac{2}{10} =$

$\frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{6} =$

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

$\frac{2}{9} + \frac{1}{3} =$

$\frac{3}{8} + \frac{1}{2} =$