

ADDING WITH THE SAME DENOMINATOR

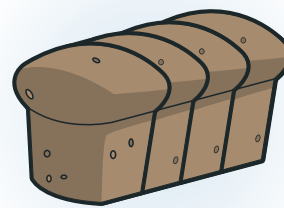


Sometimes your child might have to add or subtract fractions for their maths homework.

In this section, you'll find out how to add fractions that have the same **denominator**, or bottom number.

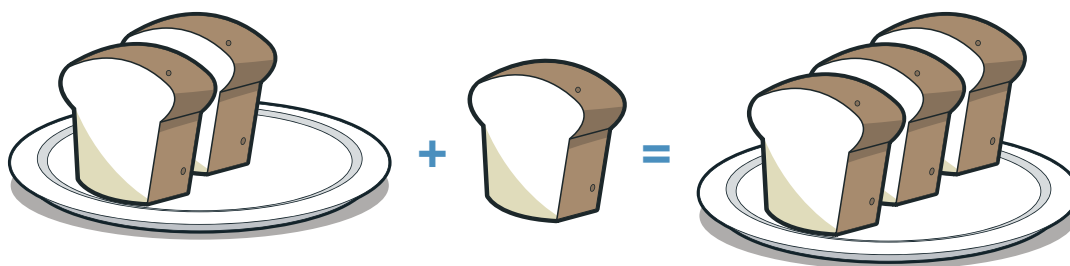
If you're adding fractions that have the same denominator (bottom number), there is just **ONE simple rule**:

- Add the numbers on the top of the fractions (the **numerators**)
- But **DON'T** add the numbers on the bottom (the **denominators**)



Imagine a loaf of bread divided into 4 equal parts, or quarters.

If we put 2 of those quarters on a plate and then add another quarter to the plate, there are now 3 quarters of a loaf there.



We can write this as follows:

- **Two quarters** is written as $\frac{2}{4}$
- **One quarter** is written as $\frac{1}{4}$
- $\frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$

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

In the example of the bread, we added the numerators in the fractions (2 plus 1 equals 3). We didn't add together the denominators (the denominator stays the same, as 4).

So the answer to the question 'Add $\frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$ ' is $\frac{3}{4}$.

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

Look at another question, where you have to **add together** $\frac{2}{8}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$.

$$\frac{2}{8} + \frac{5}{8} = \frac{7}{8}$$

- Remember, only add the numerators (top numbers) in the question.
- When we add the numerators, $2 + 5 = 7$
- Put this answer over the original denominator (the bottom number in your fraction, in this case 8)
- So the answer is $\frac{7}{8}$.