



Eleven Plus Maths How To Do - Cancelling Fractions (Lowest Terms)

A fraction should always be expressed in its lowest terms.

e.g. $\frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{8}{24} = \frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{5}{20} = \frac{1}{4}$

Sometimes it is possible to see the fraction in its lowest terms. Sometimes the process known as cancelling has to be used.

If the numerator and denominator of a fraction are divided by the same number the value of the fraction does not change.

$\frac{3}{6} \div \frac{3}{3} = \frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{8}{24} \div \frac{8}{8} = \frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{5}{20} \div \frac{5}{5} = \frac{1}{4}$

To prove this we will divide first and then multiply like this.

$\frac{8}{12} \div 4 = \frac{2}{3} \times 4 = \frac{8}{3}$
 $12 \div 4 = 3 \times 4 = 12$