

Eleven Plus Maths How To Do - The Four Rules - Subtraction

Subtraction

Before you can subtract one fraction from another you must make sure that they have a common denominator, which means they must be fractions of the same type.

(a) $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{5}$

Find the L.C.M. which in this case is 20.
Write the fraction.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{5} & \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{5} \\ = \frac{3 \times 5}{4 \times 5} - \frac{2 \times 4}{5 \times 4} & = \frac{3 \times 5 - 2 \times 4}{20} \\ = \frac{15}{20} - \frac{8}{20} & = \frac{15 - 8}{20} \\ = \frac{7}{20} & = \frac{7}{20} \end{aligned}$$

(b) $6\frac{3}{5} - 2\frac{3}{10}$

$$= 4\frac{6}{10} - 2\frac{3}{10}$$

$$= 4\frac{3}{10}$$

First deal with the whole numbers. Find the L.C.M. Change the numerators.

Note I do not like the body of the sum to be cluttered with little x signs and new figures. The changing of the fraction is best dealt with in a working column on the right of the page.

$$\frac{5}{8} = \frac{15}{24}$$

$$\begin{array}{l|l} \frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{3} & \frac{15}{24} \\ \hline \frac{5}{8} \times 3 & 24 \end{array}$$