MATHEMATICS · GRADES 4-6

Converting improper fractions to mixed numbers

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Mathematics: Grades 4-6

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Overview of the concept

This is how you write a fraction bigger than one whole the way people say it in real life. Seven quarters of a pizza is one and three quarters, and that is how anyone ordering or sharing pizza would describe it. Mixed numbers match how we talk about amounts bigger than one whole, so they are the form everyday life expects.



Rule

Improper fractions and mixed numbers: an improper fraction has a numerator larger than its denominator, so it is bigger than one whole. A mixed number is a whole number plus a fraction.

To write an improper fraction as a mixed number, divide the top by the bottom. The quotient is the whole number, and the remainder stays over the same denominator.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q How do you write $\frac{7}{3}$ as a mixed number?

SOLUTION

Divide the top number by the bottom number: 7 ÷ 3 = 2 remainder 1

The 2 is the whole part. The remainder 1 goes over the same denominator 3.

So $\frac{7}{3} = 2\,\frac{1}{3}$

EXAMPLE 2

Q How do you write $\frac{11}{4}$ as a mixed number?

SOLUTION

Divide the top number by the bottom number: 11 ÷ 4 = 2 remainder 3

The 2 is the whole part. The remainder 3 goes over the same denominator 4.

So $\frac{11}{4} = 2\,\frac{3}{4}$

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Practice questions

1 Write $\frac{9}{2}$ as a mixed number.

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2 Write $\frac{13}{5}$ as a mixed number.

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3 What mixed number is $\frac{8}{3}$?

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4 Write $\frac{17}{4}$ as a mixed number.

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5 Write $\frac{19}{5}$ as a mixed number.

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6 What mixed number is $\frac{10}{3}$?

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7 Write $\frac{14}{3}$ as a mixed number.

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8 Write $\frac{15}{4}$ as a mixed number.

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9 What mixed number is $\frac{12}{4}$?

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10 Write $\frac{21}{2}$ as a mixed number.

A $9\ \frac{1}{2}$ km

B $10\ \frac{1}{2}$ km

C 10 km

D 11 km

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ANSWER KEY

1. $4\frac{1}{2}$

2. $2\frac{3}{5}$

3. $2\frac{2}{3}$

4. $4\frac{1}{4}$

5. $3\frac{4}{5}$

6. $3\frac{1}{3}$

7. $4\frac{2}{3}$

8. $3\frac{3}{4}$

9. 3

10. $10\frac{1}{2}$ km

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