MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Halves, thirds, and quarters

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you split something fairly, like cutting a sandwich in half or sharing a pizza equally among four friends. Halves, thirds, and quarters are the shares you meet most in everyday life, from splitting food to dividing up chores or pocket money. Knowing them by sight means you can cut a cake fairly, share a bill three ways, or tell at a glance whether everyone got an equal piece.



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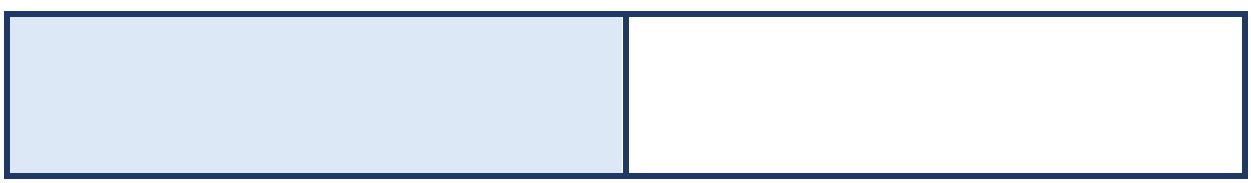
Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q What is one half?



SOLUTION

$\frac{1}{2}$

Cut a whole bar into 2 equal pieces.

Take 1 of those pieces.

That piece is one half, written $\frac{1}{2}$

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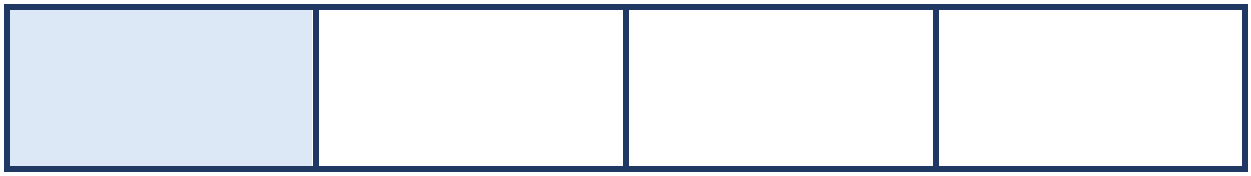
EXAMPLE 2

Q What is one quarter?



SOLUTION

$\frac{1}{4}$

Cut a whole bar into 4 equal pieces.

Take 1 of those pieces.

That piece is one quarter, written $\frac{1}{4}$

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Practice questions

1 The number line from 0 to 1 is cut into 2 equal pieces. The first piece is shaded. What is that piece called?



- **A** one half
- **B** one third
- **C** one quarter
- **D** one fifth

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2 The number line from 0 to 1 is cut into 3 equal pieces. The first piece is shaded. What is that piece called?



A one half

B one third

C one quarter

D one fifth

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3

The number line from 0 to 1 is cut into 4 equal pieces. The first piece is shaded. What is that piece called?



A one half

B one third

C one quarter

D one fifth

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4 Write one half as a fraction. A whole cut into 2 equal pieces, take 1 piece.

A $\frac{1}{3}$

B $\frac{1}{2}$

C $\frac{1}{4}$

D $\frac{2}{3}$

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5 Write one third as a fraction. A whole cut into 3 equal pieces, take 1 piece.

A $\frac{1}{2}$

B $\frac{1}{4}$

C $\frac{1}{3}$

D $\frac{3}{4}$

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6 Write one quarter as a fraction. A whole cut into 4 equal pieces, take 1 piece.

- **A** $\frac{1}{2}$
- **B** $\frac{1}{3}$
- **C** $\frac{1}{4}$
- **D** $\frac{3}{4}$

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7 How many halves make a whole?

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8 How many quarters make a whole?

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9 How many thirds make a whole?

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10 Is one half bigger or smaller than one quarter? A half is 1 of 2 pieces and a quarter is 1 of 4 pieces. Write bigger or smaller.

A bigger

B smaller

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ANSWER KEY

1. one half

2. one third

3. one quarter

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

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

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

7. 2

8. 4

9. 3

10. bigger

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