MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Numerators and denominators

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

This document was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Overview of the concept

This is how you talk about sharing food fairly, like knowing that 3 out of 4 slices of pizza means three slices from a pizza cut into four. A cook uses it to scale a recipe, and a teacher uses it to explain a test score like 17 out of 20. The bottom number tells you how many equal pieces the whole was cut into, and the top number tells you how many of those pieces you have. Once that clicks, fractions stop being abstract and start being a way to describe real shares.



© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q A ribbon is cut into 5 equal parts and 2 parts are shaded. Which number is the numerator and which is the denominator?

SOLUTION

Count the parts first. The whole ribbon is cut into 5 equal parts, so the denominator, the bottom number, is 5. Then count the shaded parts: 2 are shaded, so the numerator, the top number, is 2.

The fraction is $\frac{2}{5}$, with numerator 2 and denominator 5.

EXAMPLE 2

Q There are 8 fruits in a bowl and 3 of them are bananas. What fraction of the fruits are bananas?

SOLUTION

A fraction of a set works the same way as a shaded part of a whole. The denominator is how many there are in all, 8 fruits. The numerator is how many you are counting, 3 bananas.

$\frac{3}{8}$ of the fruits are bananas.

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Practice questions

1. A bar is cut into 7 equal parts and 3 parts are shaded. Which number is the numerator?

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

2. A bar is cut into 3 equal parts and 1 part is shaded. Which number is the denominator?

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

3 A bar is cut into 8 equal parts and 7 parts are shaded. Write the fraction.

A $\frac{3}{8}$

B $\frac{7}{8}$

C $\frac{1}{8}$

D $\frac{8}{7}$

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

4 There are 10 fruits in a bowl and 3 of them are bananas. What fraction of the fruits are bananas?

- **A** $\frac{10}{3}$
- **B** $\frac{1}{10}$
- **C** $\frac{3}{10}$
- **D** $\frac{7}{10}$

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

5 Is $\frac{7}{4}$ a proper fraction (one where the top number is smaller than the bottom number)?

- **A** Yes, it is proper
- **B** No, it is improper
- **C** Yes, it is improper
- **D** No, it is proper

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

6 A bar is split into 4 equal parts. What fraction is one part?

- **A** $\frac{1}{2}$
- **B** $\frac{1}{3}$
- **C** $\frac{1}{5}$
- **D** $\frac{1}{4}$

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

7 What is the unit fraction (a fraction with 1 on top) with denominator 6?

- **A** $\frac{1}{6}$
- **B** $\frac{1}{2}$
- **C** $\frac{1}{3}$
- **D** $\frac{6}{1}$

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

8 A bar is cut into 4 equal parts and all 4 parts are shaded. What fraction is shaded?

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

9 Which of these fractions has 5 as its numerator?

- **A** $\frac{5}{8}$
- **B** $\frac{8}{5}$
- **C** $\frac{3}{8}$
- **D** $\frac{8}{3}$

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

10

Which number tells how many equal parts the whole is cut into: the numerator or the denominator?

A The numerator

B The denominator

C Both numbers

D Neither number

Understand It with Pulse

Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

ANSWER KEY

1. 3

2. 3

3. $\frac{7}{8}$

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

5. No, it is improper

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

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

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

9. $\frac{5}{8}$

10. The denominator

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.