Adding and Subtracting Mixed Numbers

Adding and subtracting mixed fractions with unlike denominators may seem impossible, but if you follow these three simple steps, you will be a pro!



-First, convert your mixed fraction to an improper fraction.

-Next, find a common denominator and add or subtract the fractions.

-Last, convert the answer back to a mixed fraction.

Quick Reminder: An improper fraction has a numerator that is greater than or equal to the denominator.

Example:

$$3\frac{1}{4} + 2\frac{1}{2} = ?$$

$$3\frac{1}{4} + 2\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{3}$$

Convert to an improper fraction.
$$3\frac{1}{4} = \frac{13}{4}$$
 Find a common $\frac{13}{4}$ Now, add them. $\frac{13}{4} + \frac{10}{4} = \frac{23}{4}$ Convert back to a mixed fraction. $5\frac{3}{4}$

$$\frac{13}{4} + \frac{10}{4} = \frac{23}{4}$$

For each problem below, follow the steps used in the example to find your solution. Be sure to show all your work in the space provided.

1)
$$3\frac{5}{8} + 1\frac{3}{4} = ?$$

5)
$$3\frac{2}{3} + 2\frac{5}{7} = ?$$

2)
$$6\frac{5}{6} - 3\frac{1}{4} = ?$$

6)
$$5\frac{4}{5} - 3\frac{1}{3} = ?$$

3)
$$4\frac{1}{3} + 3\frac{2}{5} = ?$$

7)
$$4\frac{1}{4} + 1\frac{1}{3} = ?$$

4)7
$$\frac{7}{8}$$
 - 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ = ?

8)
$$11\frac{5}{6} - 5\frac{1}{2} = ?$$

