

## SUBTRACTING FRACTIONS

### How to Subtract Fractions

Fractions consist of two numbers. The **top** number is called the **numerator**. The **bottom** number is called the **denominator**.

$$\frac{\text{numerator}}{\text{denominator}}$$

#### To subtract two fractions with the same denominator:

- **Subtract** the **numerators** and
- Place that **difference** over the **common denominator**.

**Example:** Find the **difference** between  $5/9$  and  $2/9$ .

**Subtract** the  
**Place** the 3 c  
The result is :



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#### To subtract

- **Find** the
- **Rename**
- **Subtract** the numerators of the fractions
- The **difference** will be the **numerator** and the **LCD** will be the denominator of the answer.
- **Simplify** the fraction

**Example:** Find the difference between  $3/12$  and  $2/9$ .

- **Determine** the **Greatest Common Factor** of 12 and 9 which is 3
- Either **multiply** the numbers and divide by the GCF ( $9 \times 12 = 108$ ,  $108/3 = 36$ ) - OR - **Divide** one of the numbers by the GCF and multiply the answer times the other number ( $12/3 = 4$ ,  $9 \times 4 = 36$ )
- **Rename** the fractions to use the Lowest Common Denominator ( $3/12 = 9/36$ ,  $2/9 = 8/36$ )
- The result is  $9/36 - 8/36$
- **Subtract** the numerators and put the difference over the LCD =  $1/36$
- **Simplify** the fraction if possible. In this case it is not possible

## Try This!

Find the difference for the following fractions:

$$\frac{3}{5} - \frac{2}{5} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\frac{9}{25} - \frac{11}{25} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\frac{2}{3} - \frac{9}{24} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\frac{4}{8} - \frac{6}{10} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$



**PREVIEW**

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