

Lesson 4.4 Add and Subtract UNLIKE fractions

Objective: To add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators.

Ex. 1 Find $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$.

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

LCD: 2: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10
4: 4, 8, 12, 16, 20

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

Ex. 2 Find $\left(-\frac{3}{4} + \frac{5}{9}\right) + \frac{7}{4}$

$$\left(-\frac{3}{4} + \frac{5}{9}\right) + \frac{7}{4} = \left(\frac{5}{9} + \left(-\frac{3}{4}\right)\right) + \frac{7}{4} \quad \text{Commutative}$$

$$= \frac{5}{9} + \left(-\frac{3}{4} + \frac{7}{4}\right) \quad \text{Associative}$$

$$= \frac{5}{9} + \frac{4}{4} = 1$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{15}{9}}$$

Ex. 3 Find $-\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{2}$.

$$-\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{2}$$

LCD: 2: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10
3: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15

$$\begin{array}{r} -\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{2} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ -\frac{4}{6} - \frac{3}{6} = \frac{-4-3}{6} = \frac{-4+(-3)}{6} = \frac{-7}{6} = \frac{-7}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{1} = \frac{-7}{6} = \boxed{-\frac{7}{6}} \end{array}$$