**Spot The Mistakes – Fractions Whole - Answers**

Read the notes in the table below which contain some deliberate mistakes. Find the mistakes by circling or highlighting them in the notes and use the blank column on the right-hand side to correct the mistake.

When you think you’ve finished ask the person you are sitting beside to check your corrections.

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| **What are fractions?**  Fractions are numbers. They have a top and a bottom number with a line between them both of which must be whole numbers.  The top number is called the nominator.  The bottom number is called the denominator.  Fractions can be represented as a diagram like this:   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |   The fraction of the shape that is shaded is .  A fraction is basically a division calculation where the top number is divided by the bottom number.  So  If you put that in a calculator you would get .  **Equivalent Fractions**  Equivalent fractions are the same but the top and bottom have both been multiplied or divided by the same amount.  When you simplify a fraction you keep dividing top and bottom by the same amount until you can only divide by 1.  For example: (it will no longer halve)  The fraction is now in its “lowest terms” or “simplest form”.  **Fractions of Amounts**  If I was asked to find a fraction of a number or an amount then I would do the following:  Divide by the bottom  Multiply by the top  You must do it in this order to get the correct answer.  For example: Find of 35.  In order to find of a number I just divide that number by 7.  So the answer to of 35 is .  is a “unit fraction” because it has 7 on the bottom.  I use the same principle when finding non-unit fractions of a number.  For example: Find of 35.  I’ve already found of 35 = 5.  So of 35 is “4 lots of of 35”.  Answer is .  **Mixed and Improper Fractions**  Mixed numbers are whole numbers and fractions together like .  Improper fractions are fractions where the top number is larger than the bottom number like .  In fact and are equivalent fractions.  How do I know that?  In the “2” is “2 wholes” which make a total of “8 quarters” because 1 whole = 4 quarters. Add the “3 quarters” and we have a total of “11 quarters” which is our improper fraction.  If I do this as a calculation it looks like this:  “Big multiplied by top, add the bottom.”  **Adding and Subtracting Fractions**  Fractions cannot be added or subtracted until the bottom numbers or denominators are all the same. This is often called a “common denominator”.  Two simple examples:  and  If the two denominators aren’t the same you must find the common denominator using equivalent fractions.  For example: Calculate  Which numbers appear in both the 4 and 5 times table?  20, 40, 60, 80 etc.  The lowest is 20, so our common denominator is 20.  becomes  We can add these fractions to get the answer .  Let’s try a subtraction: Calculate .  The first number that appears in the 3 and 7 times tables is 21, so this will be our common denominator.  So becomes .  Ignore the “2” for now and we have  Now we include the “2” again:  The is calculated by guessing.  **Multiplying Fractions**  Before multiplying fractions you must convert any mixed numbers to improper fractions.  In order to multiply fractions:  Multiply top  Multiply bottom  For example:  and  **Dividing Fractions**  Before dividing fractions you must convert any improper fractions to mixed numbers.  In order to divide fractions:  Turn the divisor (left hand fraction) upside down  Multiply top  Multiply bottom  For example:  and |  |