

Simplifying Fractions

Facts

Numerator – the top number in a fraction

Denominator – the bottom number in a fraction

- * Simplifying a fraction means to write an equivalent fraction using smaller numbers
- * When simplifying a fraction divide the numerator and denominator by the same number

Simplify $\frac{4}{12}$

Method 1
(Long way)

$$\frac{4}{12} \xrightarrow{\div 2} \frac{2}{6} \xrightarrow{\div 2} \frac{1}{3}$$

Look for any number which divides into both the top (numerator) and the bottom (denominator). Keep going until only 1 goes into top and bottom.

Method 2
(Quick way)

$$\frac{4}{12} \xrightarrow{\div 4} \frac{1}{3}$$

Find the largest number that divides into both the top and bottom number. This number is called the Highest Common Factor (HCF).

