

# Multiply Fractions in Word Problems



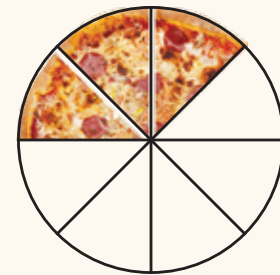
Dear Family,

This week your child is learning about multiplying fractions in word problems.

He or she might see a problem like this:

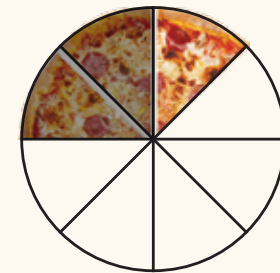
*Michael found  $\frac{3}{8}$  of a pizza in the refrigerator. He ate  $\frac{2}{3}$  of it.  
How much of the original whole pizza did Michael eat?*

- One way to understand this problem is to draw a picture. Your child could draw  $\frac{3}{8}$  of a pizza.



To show the part of the pizza that Michael ate, your child could shade 2 of the 3 pieces to show  $\frac{2}{3}$ .

The shaded parts show how much of the original whole pizza Michael ate. Michael ate  $\frac{2}{8}$ , or  $\frac{1}{4}$ , of the original whole pizza.



- Another way your child could solve the problem is to write a multiplication equation.

$\frac{2}{3}$  of  $\frac{3}{8}$  means  $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{8}$ .

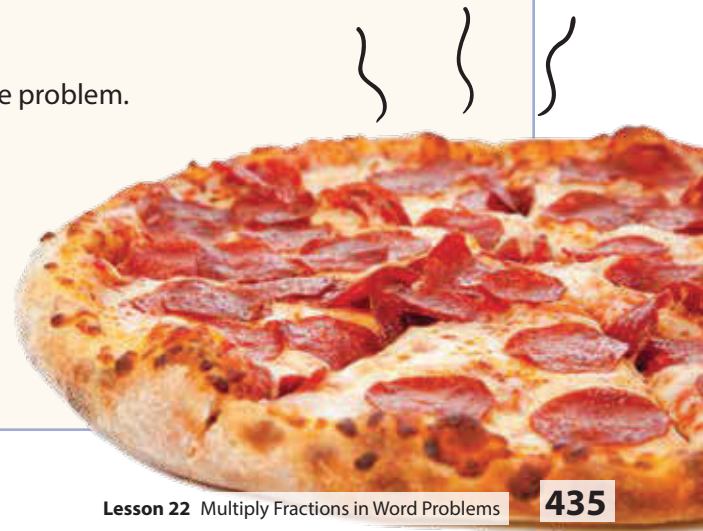
$$\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{8} = \frac{2 \times 3}{3 \times 8} = \frac{6}{24}$$

So,  $\frac{6}{24}$  is equivalent to  $\frac{2}{8}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The answer is the same using either way to solve the problem.

Michael ate  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the original whole pizza.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about multiplying fractions and word problems by doing the following activity together.



## ACTIVITY MULTIPLYING FRACTIONS IN WORD PROBLEMS

Do this activity with your child to multiply fractions in word problems.

Together with your child, make up and solve real-world problems about multiplying fractions or use the problems below.

Below are examples of problems you could solve.

1. Pete found  $\frac{5}{6}$  of a party sandwich left in the refrigerator. He took  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the  $\frac{5}{6}$  of the sandwich to his neighbor. How much of the original sandwich did Pete take to his neighbor?



2. Shawn had  $\frac{3}{5}$  of a gallon of paint left in the can. He used  $\frac{2}{3}$  of it to paint a cabinet. How much of the gallon of paint did he use?



3. Renee made some money babysitting. She saved  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the money. She spent  $\frac{2}{5}$  of the money she saved to buy a shirt. What fraction of the money did Renee spend on the shirt?



**Answers:**

1.  $\frac{5}{12}$ ; 2.  $\frac{6}{15}$  or  $\frac{2}{5}$ ; 3.  $\frac{6}{20}$  or  $\frac{3}{10}$