

# Subtract Fractions



Dear Family,

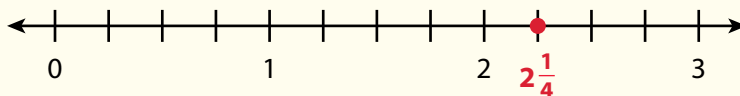
This week your child is learning to subtract fractions with unlike denominators.

Your child might see a problem like this:

Sierra needs  $2\frac{1}{4}$  cups of almond milk for a recipe.  
She has  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup. How much more almond milk does Sierra need?

One way to model subtracting  $\frac{1}{2}$  from  $2\frac{1}{4}$  is with a number line.

Start at the point  $2\frac{1}{4}$ .

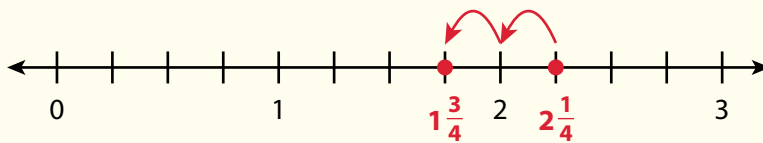


Each whole on the number line is divided into 4 equal parts.

To subtract  $\frac{1}{2}$ , you need to find a common denominator with the fraction in  $2\frac{1}{4}$ .

The number 4 is a multiple of 2 and 4, so 4 is a common denominator.

Because  $\frac{1}{2}$  is equivalent to  $\frac{2}{4}$ , you can start at  $2\frac{1}{4}$  and jump back (left)  $\frac{2}{4}$ .



Each jump back is  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The number line shows that  $2\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2} = 1\frac{3}{4}$ . Sierra needs  $1\frac{3}{4}$  cups of almond milk.

Some other ways your child can think about subtracting fractions include using fraction bars or using multiplication to replace the given fractions with equivalent fractions that have the same denominator.

Invite your child to share what they know about subtracting fractions by doing the following activity together.



## Learning Games



Cupcake



Cloud Machine

## Math Tools



Number Line



Fraction Models

## ACTIVITY SUBTRACTING FRACTIONS

Do this activity with your child to subtract fractions.

**Materials** ruler, yardstick, or measuring tape, and a variety of household objects

Work with your child to compare the lengths or heights of various objects around your home.

- Find two objects and measure their lengths. Measure the length of one object to the nearest  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch and the length of the second object to the nearest  $\frac{1}{8}$  or  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch.  
*Examples:* lengths of fork and spoon, heights of chair and table
- Determine how much longer one object is than the other.
- Continue to practice adding fractions by finding the combined length of two or more objects and then comparing the combined length to another length.
- Find the combined length of a large spoon and a small spoon. Next, find the combined length of a fork and a spoon. Then find the difference between the two combined lengths.



Look for other real-world examples of subtracting fractions with your child.