

# Multiply Fractions in Word Problems



Dear Family,

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

Your child might see a problem like this:

*Reynaldo finds  $\frac{3}{8}$  of a vegetable pizza in the refrigerator. He eats  $\frac{2}{3}$  of it.  
How much of the original whole pizza does Reynaldo 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 Reynaldo eats, 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 Reynaldo eats. Reynaldo eats  $\frac{2}{3}$ , 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  $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{8}$ .

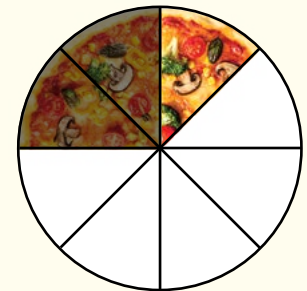
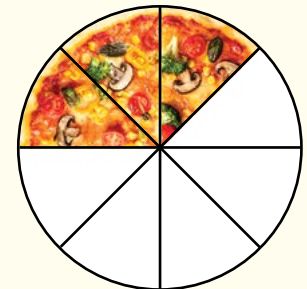
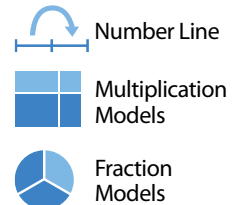
$$\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{8} = \frac{2 \times 3}{3 \times 8} = \frac{6}{24}$$

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

The answer is the same using either way to solve the problem. Reynaldo eats  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the original whole pizza.

Invite your child to share what they know about multiplying fractions and word problems by doing the following activity together.

## Math Tools



## 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. Vinh finds  $\frac{5}{6}$  of a party sandwich left in the refrigerator. He takes  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the  $\frac{5}{6}$  of the sandwich to his neighbor. How much of the original sandwich does Vinh take to his neighbor?



2. Tomás has  $\frac{3}{5}$  of a gallon of paint left in the can. He uses  $\frac{2}{3}$  of it to paint a cabinet. How much of the gallon of paint does he use?



3. Leah makes some money babysitting. She saves  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the money. She spends  $\frac{2}{5}$  of the money she saves to buy a shirt. What fraction of the money does Leah spend on the shirt?



**Answers:**

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