Adding equal parts: answers and notes

What your child practised: adding fractions with the same denominator, such as 2/7 + 3/7 = 5/7, by adding the numerators and keeping the denominator the same (Year 3).

Page 1 · Warm up

1/5 + 2/5 = **3/5** · 4/9 + 3/9 = **7/9** · 2/6 + 3/6 = **5/6**

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. The denominator is always 8; the numerators add up to the coloured parts.

Page 2 · A. Write the addition

1/5 + 2/5 = 3/5 · **2/6 + 3/6 = 5/6**
4/10 + 5/10 = 9/10

Page 3 · B. Add

6/7 · **3/4** · **8/10** · **9/12** · **7/9** · **2/3**

Page 3 · C. Colour the bar

2 parts in one colour and 5 in another: **7/8**
1 part and 4 parts: **5/6**

Page 3 · D. Words and fractions

3 fifths + 1 fifth = **4** fifths
2/9 + 4/9 = **6/9**

Challenge: No. Adding more sevenths doesn't change the size of the parts, so the answer is still sevenths: **2/7 + 3/7 = 5/7**. (5/14 is less than half, but the bar shows more than half.)

Watch out for

- **Adding the denominators too** (2/7 + 3/7 = 5/14). Say it in words: "2 sevenths + 3 sevenths = 5 sevenths". We are counting sevenths, so they stay sevenths.
- **Changing the denominator** (3/8 + 4/8 = 7/12). Ask "What size are the parts? Did the parts change size?"
- **Reading the bar wrongly.** Count all the parts for the denominator, not just the coloured ones.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Snack fractions:** cut toast or a sandwich into 4 equal pieces. "I eat 1 quarter, you eat 2 quarters. How much did we eat altogether?"
- **Say it, add it:** say "2 fifths and 2 fifths" and your child answers "4 fifths". Try sixths, tenths and twelfths.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Adding fractions to make one whole, finds fractions that add up to 1.