Adding fractions: answers and notes

What your child practised: adding fractions with the same bottom number within one whole, such as $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{3}{5}$ (Year 3).

Page 1 · Warm up

$\frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$ · $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{3}$ · $\frac{2}{6} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. $\frac{2}{6} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$.

Page 2 · A. Bars

$\frac{1}{5} + \frac{2}{5} = \frac{3}{5}$ · $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$ ·
$\frac{3}{8} + \frac{4}{8} = \frac{7}{8}$ · $\frac{2}{6} + \frac{2}{6} = \frac{4}{6}$

Page 3 · B. Add

$\frac{3}{7} + \frac{2}{7} = \frac{5}{7}$ · $\frac{1}{10} + \frac{6}{10} = \frac{7}{10}$ ·
$\frac{4}{9} + \frac{4}{9} = \frac{8}{9}$ · $\frac{2}{8} + \frac{5}{8} = \frac{7}{8}$ ·
$\frac{1}{6} + \frac{4}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$ · $\frac{3}{5} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{4}{5}$

Page 3 · C. Missing number

$\frac{2}{5} + \frac{2}{5} = \frac{4}{5}$ · $\frac{4}{8} + \frac{3}{8} = \frac{7}{8}$ ·
$\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{4} = 1$ whole

Page 3 · D. Problems

1. $\frac{2}{8} + \frac{3}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$ · 2. $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{2}{6} = \frac{3}{6}$

Challenge: No. Adding fifths to fifths still gives fifths: the pieces stay the same size. Add only the top numbers: $\frac{1}{5} + \frac{2}{5} = \frac{3}{5}$. A bar of 5 parts with 1 + 2 = 3 parts shaded shows it.

Watch out for

- **Adding the bottom numbers too**, writing $\frac{1}{5} + \frac{2}{5} = \frac{3}{10}$. Say it in words: "one fifth plus two fifths" is three fifths.
- **Going past one whole.** At this stage, answers stay at or below one whole, like $\frac{4}{4}$.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Snack maths:** "I ate $\frac{1}{4}$ of the apple and you ate $\frac{2}{4}$. How much did we eat?"
- **Egg box again:** fill cups with two kinds of things and say the adding sentence aloud.
- **In the game:** This is the last chapter. Any chapter can be replayed for more practice.