

Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions

Recall these operations with fractions:

$$2 = \frac{2}{1}$$

$$14 = \frac{2 \cdot 7}{1}$$

Simplify each of the following

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5} \quad \text{LCD: } \underline{10}$$

$$= \frac{1 \times 5}{2 \times 5} + \frac{1 \times 2}{5 \times 2}$$

$$= \frac{5}{10} + \frac{2}{10}$$

$$= \frac{7}{10}$$

$$\frac{1 \times 7}{2 \times 7} + \frac{3}{14} \quad \text{LCD: } 2 \cdot 7 = 14$$

$$= \frac{7}{14} + \frac{3}{14}$$

$$= \frac{10}{14}$$

$$= \frac{5}{7}$$

$$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{3}{8} \quad \text{LCD: } \begin{matrix} = 24 \\ 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \\ 6 = 2 \cdot 3 \\ 8 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \end{matrix}$$

$$= \frac{5 \times 4}{6 \times 4} - \frac{3 \times 3}{8 \times 3}$$

$$= \frac{20}{24} - \frac{9}{24}$$

$$= \frac{11}{24}$$

$$\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} \quad \text{LCD: } \begin{matrix} b = b \\ d = d \\ \text{LCD: } bd \end{matrix}$$

$$= \frac{a \cdot d}{b \cdot d} + \frac{c \cdot b}{d \cdot b}$$

$$= \frac{ad + bc}{bd}$$

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Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions

Ex.1 Simplify and state any restrictions

$$(a) \quad \frac{x}{x+1} + \frac{3x}{x+2} \quad \text{LCD} = (x+1)(x+2)$$

$$= \frac{x(x+2)}{(x+1)(x+2)} + \frac{3x(x+1)}{(x+2)(x+1)}$$

$$= \frac{(x^2 + 2x) + (3x^2 + 3x)}{(x+1)(x+2)}$$

$$= \frac{4x^2 + 5x}{(x+1)(x+2)}$$

$$= \frac{x(4x+5)}{(x+1)(x+2)}, \quad x \neq -1, x \neq -2$$

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Steps:

1. Factor the denominator.
2. Identify restrictions (where is denominator = 0 ?).
3. Find the lowest common denominator, LCD
4. Express each rational expression with the same LCD
5. Add/subtract the terms in the numerator, keep the LCD (factored form) as your denominator.
6. Factor the numerator, if possible, and simplify.

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$$(b) \frac{x+2}{x-2} - \frac{x}{(x-2)^2}$$

$$(x-2)^2 = (x-2)(x-2)$$

$$= \frac{(x+2)(x-2)}{(x-2)(x-2)} - \frac{x}{(x-2)^2}$$

$$LCD : (x-2)(x-2) = (x-2)^2$$

$$= \frac{(x^2-4) - (x)}{(x-2)^2}$$

$$= \frac{x^2 - x - 4}{(x-2)^2}, \quad x \neq 2$$

factor?

S - 1
P - 4
I? X

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$$(c) \frac{2}{x^2+x} + \frac{x}{x^2-1} \quad \text{LCD: } x(x+1)(x-1)$$

$$= \frac{2}{x(x+1)} + \frac{x}{(x-1)(x+1)}$$

$$= \frac{2(x-1)}{x(x+1)(x-1)} + \frac{x(x)}{(x-1)(x+1)(x)}$$

$$= \frac{(2x-2) + (x^2)}{x(x-1)(x+1)}$$

$$= \frac{x^2 + 2x - 2}{x(x-1)(x+1)}, \quad x \neq 0, x \neq 1, x \neq -1$$

OR
 $x \neq 0, 1, -1$

OR

$$x \neq 0, \pm 1$$

S 2
P -2
I X

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$$(d) \frac{2x-6}{3x+6} + \frac{x-3}{x^2+5x+6}$$

$$= \frac{2(x-3)}{3(x+2)} + \frac{x-3}{(x+2)(x+3)}$$

$$= \frac{2(x-3)(x+3)}{3(x+2)(x+3)} + \frac{(x-3)(?)}{(x+2)(x+3)(?)}$$

LCD: $3(x+2)(x+3)$

$$= \frac{2(x^2-9) + (3x-9)}{3(x+2)(x+3)}$$

$$= \frac{2x^2 + 3x - 27}{3(x+2)(x+3)}$$

$$= \frac{(2x+9)(x-3)}{3(x+2)(x+3)}, \quad x \neq -2, -3$$

S 5
P 6
I 2,3

$$x \neq -2$$

$$x \neq -3$$

S 3
P -54
I 9, -6

1x54
2x27
3x18
6x9

$$2x^2 + 9x - 6x - 27$$

$$= x(2x+9) - 3(2x+9)$$

$$= (2x+9)(x-3)$$

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Assigned Work:

p.58 # 1c, 4c, 5g, 6ac, 10

p.67 # 5c, 6ace, 8ace

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