Lesson 35: Fractions in Lowest Terms

Purpose of lesson: You will learn how to **reduce** fractions to **lowest terms.**

Words to Learn: <u>Lowest terms</u> means the smallest possible number. <u>Reduce</u> means to make smaller. When working with fractions you may need to <u>reduce</u> your answer to <u>lowest terms</u>.

This is how it works:

In this set of triangles, **2** of the **4** triangles are shaded.

$\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$

You could say **half** of the triangles are shaded.

You get from $\frac{2}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ by dividing both the **numerator** and the **denominator** by 2.

<u>Note</u>: This must be done with fractions if the answer is <u>not</u> in lowest terms.

Here are some more examples:

a) $\frac{5}{10}$ 5 divided by 5 = **1**
10 divided by 5 = **2**

b) $\frac{3}{6}$ 3 divided by 3 = **1**
6 divided by 3 = **2**

c) $\frac{3}{9}$ 3 divided by 3 = **1**
9 divided by 3 = **3**

d) 4 divided by 4 = **1**
12 divided by 4 = **3**

e) 7 divided by 7 = **1**
14 divided by 7 = **2**

Now try these.

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