



Step-by-Step Notes

Reducing Fractions to Simplest Form

Fractions should be written in simplest form, also called lowest term. We call converting a fraction to simplest form "reducing the fraction to simplest form."

To reduce a fraction to simplest form, divide both the numerator and denominator by their greatest common factor (the greatest number that goes into both). A fraction is in simplest form if their greatest common factor is one.

Example: Reduce $\frac{8}{12}$ to simplest form.

Step 1: Find the GCF of 8 and 12.

8: 1, 2, 4, 8
12: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12
The GCF is 4

Step 2: Divide both the numerator and denominator by the GCF.

$$\begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{+4} \\ \frac{8}{12} = \frac{2}{3} \\ \xleftarrow{+4} \end{array}$$

So, the simplest form of $\frac{8}{12}$ is $\frac{2}{3}$.

Practice:

Determine whether each fraction is in simplest form. If not, reduce it to simplest form.

1.) $\frac{8}{10}$ _____

2.) $\frac{25}{60}$ _____

3.) $\frac{5}{1}$ _____

4.) $\frac{9}{12}$ _____

5.) $\frac{9}{31}$ _____

6.) $\frac{6}{24}$ _____

7.) $\frac{17}{20}$ _____

8.) $\frac{9}{36}$ _____

9.) $\frac{52}{100}$ _____

10.) $\frac{15}{3}$ _____

11.) $\frac{12}{18}$ _____

12.) $\frac{20}{25}$ _____