

Unit 2: Working With Rational Numbers

2.3 Problem Solving with Rationals as Fractions

Ex. Solve:

a) $\frac{-3}{4} - \frac{1}{5}$

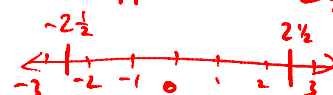
$$= \frac{-15}{20} + \frac{-4}{20}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{-19}{20}}$$

* LCD to + or -

b) $-2\frac{1}{2} + 1\frac{9}{10}$

$$\begin{array}{l} -2 + 1 \\ -1 \\ -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{9}{10} \\ -\frac{5}{10} + \frac{9}{10} \\ -\frac{1}{1} + \frac{4}{5} \\ -\frac{1}{1} + \frac{2}{5} \\ -\frac{1}{1} + \frac{2}{5} \\ = \boxed{\frac{-3}{5}} \end{array} \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{array}{l} -\frac{5}{2} + \frac{19}{10} \\ -\frac{25}{10} + \frac{19}{10} \\ = \frac{-6}{10} \\ = \boxed{\frac{-3}{5}} \end{array}$$

* $-2\frac{1}{2}$ opposite of $2\frac{1}{2}$ 

$$-2\frac{1}{2} = -2 + \frac{-1}{2} \quad 2\frac{1}{2} = 2 + \frac{1}{2}$$

c) $-\frac{2}{5} \left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)$

$$= \boxed{\frac{1}{15}}$$

* pre-cancel X

d) $-2\frac{1}{8} \div 1\frac{1}{4}$

$$= -\frac{17}{8} \div \frac{5}{4}$$

$$= -\frac{17}{8} \times \frac{4}{5}$$

$$= \boxed{-\frac{17}{10} \text{ or } -1\frac{7}{10}}$$

* X or $\div$ must be improper* change $\div$ into X the reciprocal

Ex. At the start of the week Jane had \$30. During the week she spent $\frac{1}{5}$ of the money on bus fares, another $\frac{1}{2}$ shopping, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of what was left over on snacks. How much money was left at the end of the week?

of = X

Bus $\frac{30}{1} \times \frac{1}{5} = \6

shopping $\frac{30}{1} \times \frac{1}{2} = \15
 spent \$21

$$30 - 21 = \$9 \text{ left over}$$

Snacks $\frac{9}{1} \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{9}{4} = 2\frac{1}{4} = \2.25 spent

$$9 - 2.25 = \boxed{\$6.75}$$

Ex. Jane's height is $\frac{4}{5}$ of John's height and Jim's height is $\frac{3}{4}$ of Jane's height.

a) What fraction of John's height is Jim?

$\xrightarrow{\text{short}} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{tall}}$
 Jim Jane John
 Jim is $\frac{3}{4}$ of Jane who is $\frac{4}{5}$ of John
 Jim is $\frac{3}{4}$ of $\frac{4}{5}$
 $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{4}{5} = \frac{3}{5}$

Jim is $\frac{3}{5}$ the height of John

b) If John is 150 cm tall, how tall are Jane and Jim?

Jane: $\frac{4}{5} \times \frac{150}{1} = \boxed{\text{Jane } 120 \text{ cm}}$

Jim: $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{150}{1} = \boxed{\text{Jim } 90 \text{ cm}}$

OR $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{120}{1} = 90 \text{ cm} \quad \text{Jim}$