

$\frac{1}{2}$ **Fractions** $\frac{1}{2}$

A fraction is part of a large number or amount. The most common fractions are shown below:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ one half | |
| $\frac{1}{3}$ one third | $\frac{2}{3}$ two thirds |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ one quarter | $\frac{3}{4}$ three quarters |

The top number (the numerator) shows how many parts there are.

The bottom number (the denominator) shows the total number of parts in the whole thing.

Look at these examples:



Fig. 1

One square out of four is shaded. This can be shown as $\frac{1}{4}$

Three squares out of four are unshaded. This can be shown as $\frac{3}{4}$

Fig. 2

Three sections out of eight are shaded. This can be shown as $\frac{3}{8}$

Five sections out of eight are unshaded. This can be shown as $\frac{5}{8}$