

- Need to have common denominators; this requires finding the LCM of the denominators
- Once the denominators are common - add or subtract the numerators
- Change any mixed-numbers into improper fractions

Example

$$3\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{5}$$

↓

$$\frac{13}{4} + \frac{3}{5}$$

Find LCD,  
LCM of 4, 5 is 20  
LCD = 20

Adjust  
Numerators  
to reflect  
the LCD

$$\frac{5}{5} \cdot \frac{13}{4} + \frac{3}{5} \cdot \frac{4}{4}$$

$$\frac{65}{20} + \frac{12}{20}$$

← denominators  
are now common  
add/subtract  
numerators

$$\frac{65 + 12}{20}$$

$$\frac{77}{20}$$

ANSWER