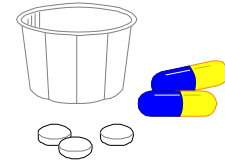




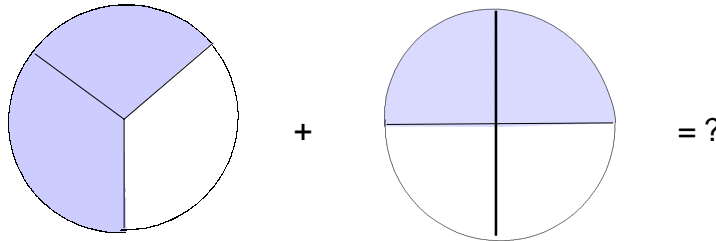
Math Study Strategies

Nursing Math

Adding Unlike Fractions



When adding **unlike fractions**, follow the steps below:



Only like fractions can be added

- Step 1
Find the least common denominator (LCD) of the fractions
- Step 2
Convert the fractions so that they have the same denominator
- Step 3
Add the resulting like fractions

Add the fractions $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$

1. The LCD of 3 and 4 is **12**. That is, **12** is the **smallest** number that both 3 and 4 will divide into **evenly** (without leaving a remainder).
2. Convert the fractions so that both have 12 in the denominator. Multiply the numerator and denominator of $\frac{1}{3}$ by 4 and the numerator and denominator of $\frac{2}{4}$ by 3.
3. Add the resulting fractions as you would like fractions

$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{4} = \frac{4}{12} + \frac{6}{12} = \frac{10}{12}$$

Because 2 is the greatest common factor (GCF) of 10 and 12 divide 10 by 2 and 12 by 2 to reduce to **lowest terms**. The resulting fraction is $\frac{5}{6}$.