

# Explore Subtracting Fractions with Unlike Denominators

You can use fraction strips to find equivalent fractions before you subtract fractions with unlike denominators.

Subtract  $\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{8}$ .



Compare fourths to eighths:

$\frac{2}{8}$  is equivalent to  $\frac{1}{4}$ .



Subtract the eighths.

$\frac{2}{8} - \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{8}$



So,  $\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{8}$ .

Subtract. You may use fraction strips to help you.  
Write each difference in simplest form.

1.  $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{12} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

2.  $\frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{10} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

3.  $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{2} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

4.  $\frac{7}{12} - \frac{1}{3} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

5.  $\frac{5}{10} - \frac{1}{2} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

6.  $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{1}{3} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

7.  $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{10} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

8.  $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{5}{12} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

9.  $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{8} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

10.  $\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{6} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

11.  $\frac{4}{5} - \frac{1}{10} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

12.  $\frac{7}{9} - \frac{1}{3} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

13.  $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{5}{8} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

14.  $\frac{4}{5} - \frac{3}{10} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

15.  $\frac{11}{12} - \frac{5}{6} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

16.  $\frac{7}{10} - \frac{3}{5} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

17.  $\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{6} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

18.  $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{5}{12} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$