

Butterfly Fractions – Add or Subtract Fractions the Butterfly Way

1. Write the fractions side-by-side as usual and draw two wings along the diagonals – made by the numerator of one fraction and the denominator of the other fraction.
2. Draw an antenna on each wing.
3. Multiply the numbers in each wing and put the product in the antenna for the wing.
4. Give the butterfly a body by connecting the bottom parts of the wings with a body-like loop.
5. Multiply the two denominators it connects, putting the product inside the body.
6. **Antennae numbers totaled over denominator total is your result.**
7. If necessary, reduce or simplify the result.

The only difference in subtracting the fractions versus adding them is in the last step, where the numbers in the antennae are subtracted instead of added.



$\frac{3}{4} + \frac{2}{5}$	Adding Fractions <u>EXAMPLE</u>
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STEP 1.	STEP 2.	STEP 3.	STEP 4.	STEP 5.	STEP 6.	STEP 7.
					$\frac{23}{20} =$	$1 \frac{3}{20}$

Subtracting Fractions EXAMPLE -Instead of multiplying the antennae totals, subtract them and put over body total.

STEP 1.	STEP 2.	STEP 3.	STEP 4.	STEP 5.	STEP 6.
					$\frac{7}{20}$