

5.2 Subtraction of Fractions (5.4 Textbook)

The strategy for subtracting fractions is the same as for addition. This means that we will:

- 1) List the multiples of each denominator.
- 2) Find the lowest common denominator.
- 3) Write each fraction as equivalent fractions.
- 4) Subtract

Ex. $\frac{3}{5} - \frac{1}{3}$

5: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25...

3: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15... LCD = 15

$\frac{3 \times 3}{5 \times 3} = \frac{9}{15}$ $\frac{1 \times 5}{3 \times 5} = \frac{5}{15}$ $\frac{9}{15} - \frac{5}{15} = \frac{4}{15}$

Common denominator

Ex. $\frac{5}{4} - \frac{1}{5}$

4: 4, 8, 12, 16, 20...

5: 5, 10, 15, 20..

$\frac{5 \times 5}{4 \times 5} = \frac{25}{20}$ $\frac{1 \times 4}{5 \times 4} = \frac{4}{20}$ $\frac{25}{20} - \frac{4}{20} = \frac{21}{20}$