

5.4 Subtraction with Mixed Numbers (5.7 in Textbook)

Subtracting mixed numbers works similar to adding. There are two strategies that we can use:

1) Subtract the fraction and the whole numbers separately.

Ex. $3\frac{3}{4} - 2\frac{1}{5}$

$3\frac{15}{20} - 2\frac{4}{20}$

or $(3 - 2) + \left(\frac{15}{20} - \frac{4}{20}\right)$

$1 + \frac{11}{20} = 1\frac{11}{20}$

$1\frac{11}{20}$

2) Write the mixed numbers as improper fractions and then subtract them.

Ex. $2\frac{2}{3} - 1\frac{1}{4}$

$\frac{6}{3} + \frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{4}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$

$\frac{8}{3} - \frac{5}{4}$

$\frac{32}{12} - \frac{15}{12} = \frac{17}{12} = \frac{12}{12} + \frac{5}{12} = 1\frac{5}{12}$