

Adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators

MODULE 3 · FRACTIONS, DECIMALS AND PERCENTAGES NUMBER

HOW TO ANSWER TODAY

- **Different-bottom fractions.** Bottoms different → make them the same first (common denominator). Then add or subtract the tops.

$$1/2 + 1/3 \rightarrow 3/6 + 2/6 = 5/6$$

STRETCH PROBLEMS

- 1 At Camogie training under the floodlights, the coach has set out a long warm-up lap around the pitch. Saoirse jogs $9/12$ of the lap, then walks back $2/7$ of the lap to fetch her water bottle. How far around the lap is she now?
- 2 Mr O'Sullivan uses $3/4$ of one box of photocopier paper for the maths worksheets, then $3/5$ of a second box for the English worksheets. How many boxes of paper has he used altogether?
- 3 On the way to Glendalough, the 5th class bus stops for a break. Oisín drinks $1/2$ of a bottle of water, then opens a second bottle and drinks $4/5$ of that one. How many bottles of water has he drunk in total?