

Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike 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.

STRETCH PROBLEMS

- 1 On the school tour to the Cliffs of Moher, Oisín drinks $\frac{3}{4}$ of a bottle of water on the coach. Later at the viewing point he drinks another $\frac{6}{9}$ of a second bottle. How many bottles of water has he drunk in total?
- 2 At Camogie training under the floodlights, the coach has set out a long warm-up lap around the pitch. Saoirse jogs $\frac{9}{12}$ of the lap, then walks back $\frac{2}{7}$ of the lap to fetch her water bottle. How far around the lap is she now?
- 3 Mr Ó Briain is stacking worksheet bundles in the photocopier room for tomorrow's lessons. He fills $\frac{2}{4}$ of one paper tray with maths worksheets and $\frac{8}{9}$ of a second tray with English worksheets. How much tray space has he filled in total?
- 4 On the way to Glendalough, the 5th class bus stops for a break. Oisín drinks $\frac{1}{2}$ of a bottle of water, then opens a second bottle and drinks $\frac{4}{5}$ of that one. How many bottles of water has he drunk in total?
- 5 Niamh helps out at her granny's farm in Wicklow, filling buckets of feed for the calves. The first bucket is $\frac{2}{4}$ full and the second bucket is $\frac{4}{5}$ full. How much feed is there altogether, as a fraction of a bucket?