

Equivalent fractions – a first look ($1/2 = 2/4$)

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

Two fractions are equivalent if they name exactly the same amount of a whole, even when the top and bottom numbers look different.

- $1/2 = 2/4$ on equal chocolate bars
- $1/2 = 5/10$ on matching cake slices

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

FAIR SHARES OF CHOCOLATE

- 1 Draw two equal chocolate bars one above the other.
- 2 Shade 1 half of the top bar.
- 3 Shade 2 quarters of the bottom bar.
- 4 Line up the shaded ends: they stop at the same place so $1/2 = 2/4$.

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT How can one half and two quarters name the very same amount?

ANSWER KEY

Scaffold: visual check on the page

Q1: Yes

Q2: Yes

Q3: Yes

Q4: Yes

Q5: Yes

a) **Always** — Both name exactly half of the same whole.

b) **Never** — Equivalent fractions often have different bottoms yet name the same amount.

c) **Always** — Shading shows both cover the same length of an equal strip.

d) **Always** — Both equal one half of the same sized bar.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: 15 ($3/4 = 15/20$)

S2: 6 ($2/3 = 6/9$)

S3: 2 ($1/6 = 2/12$)

Investigation: One half, three ways — open-ended; scan pupils' working for valid solution paths rather than a single answer.