Maths for Computing 1

Example 1

1/3 + 1/5

To add or subtract fractions they need to be of the same denomination

e.g. 1/7 + 2/7 = 3/7

If you multiply the top and bottom numbers of a fraction by the same amount the value is unchanged.

i.e. 1/2 = 2/4 = 4/8 etc.,

So convert the fractions in (a) to 15ths as this is the lowest common multiple (LCM) of 3 and 5. Then 1/3 becomes 5/15 and 1/5 becomes 3/15. Now we have:

1/3 + 1/5 = 5/15 + 3/15 = **8/15** job done!

Now try these:

1) 2/3 + 3/5 = 19/15 = 1 4/15
2) 3/4 – 1/3 = 5/12
3) 1/4 + 1/3 – ½ = 1/12

Example 2

1/3 multiplied by 1/5

Multiplying is straightforward. Just multiply the top across and the bottom across.

So 1/2 x 1/4 = 1/8

Now try these:

1) 1/3 x 1/5 = 1/15
2) 1/4 x 1/6 = 1/24
3) 1/2 x 4 = 2
4) 3/5 x 5/4 = 3/4

Example 3

1/3 divided by 1/5

Invert the divisor and multiply

Eg. 1/3 ÷ 1/5 = 1/3 x 5/1 = 5/3

Now try these:

1) 3/5 ÷ 1/5 = 3
2) 6/7 ÷ 3/4 = 24/21 = 1 1/7
3) 1/2 ÷ ¼ = 2

END