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Math 1010 Guided Notes

Module: 3 H.W. Number: 3.4 Textbook Section: 6.4

A. Take notes while reading the textbook or watching the lecture videos. Write out any definitions, formulas, properties, or procedure steps.

**Rules for Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions:**

Adding - find the LCD

- write each rational expression as an equivalent rational expression with the LCD as denominator
- Add the numerators to obtain the numerator of the sum. the LCD is the denominator of the sum
- write in lowest terms

subtracting -  $\frac{P}{Q} - \frac{R}{Q} = \frac{P-R}{Q}$

**Reminders/Cautions:**

sign errors often occur in subtraction problems. Be sure to use parentheses after the subtraction symbol.

B. Write out each learning **OBJECTIVE** word for word. Write one example demonstrating that objective.

OBJECTIVE 1: Add rational expressions having the same denominator

EXAMPLE

$$\frac{4}{9} + \frac{2}{9} = \frac{3x}{x+1} + \frac{3}{x+1}$$

$$\frac{4+2}{9} = \frac{3x+3}{x+1}$$

$$\frac{6}{9} = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)$$

$$\frac{3(x+1)}{x+1}$$

$$(3)$$

OBJECTIVE 2: Add rational expressions

EXAMPLE having different denominators

$$\frac{1}{12} + \frac{7}{15} = \frac{1 \cdot 5}{12 \cdot 5} + \frac{7 \cdot 4}{15 \cdot 4}$$

$$\frac{5}{60} + \frac{28}{60} = \frac{5+28}{60}$$

$$\frac{33}{60} = \left(\frac{11}{20}\right)$$

OBJECTIVE 3: subtract rational expressions.

EXAMPLE

$$\frac{2m}{m-1} - \frac{m+3}{m-1} = \frac{2m - (m+3)}{m-1} =$$
$$\frac{m-3}{m-1} = \frac{2m - m - 3}{m-1}$$

$$\frac{9}{x-2} - \frac{3}{x} = \frac{9x}{x(x-2)} - \frac{3(x-2)}{x(x-2)} =$$
$$\frac{9x - 3(x-2)}{x(x-2)} = \frac{9x - 3x + 6}{x(x-2)} =$$

$$\frac{6x+6}{x(x-2)} = \frac{6(x+1)}{x(x-2)}$$