

Introduction to Fractions

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■ Concept Explanation

Have you ever eaten a pizza that was cut into equal parts? Or shared a toy with your friends? These are examples of fractions in real life. A fraction is a way to show part of a whole. It's like having a slice of pizza that's one of the many slices that make up the whole pizza. We can use fractions to show how many equal parts something is divided into and how many of those parts we have.

⇒ ■ Worked Examples

Example 1

Problem: Write a fraction to show 2 parts out of 4 equal parts.

Solution:

To write this fraction, we need to think about the numerator and the denominator. Since we have 2 parts, the numerator is 2. Since the whole is divided into 4 parts, the denominator is 4. So, the fraction is $\frac{2}{4}$.

Example 2

Problem: Draw a picture to show the fraction $\frac{1}{2}$.

Solution:

To draw a picture of $\frac{1}{2}$, we can draw a rectangle or a circle and divide it into 2 equal parts. Then, we shade 1 of those parts to show that we have 1 out of the 2 parts.

Example 3

Problem: Write a fraction to show 3 parts out of 6 equal parts.

Solution:

The numerator is 3 because we have 3 parts. The denominator is 6 because the whole is divided into 6 parts. So, the fraction is $\frac{3}{6}$.

■ Practice Questions

1. What is the numerator in the fraction $\frac{2}{4}$? [EASY]
2. Draw a picture to show the fraction $\frac{3}{4}$. [MEDIUM]
3. Write a fraction to show 1 part out of 2 equal parts. [EASY]
4. What is the denominator in the fraction $\frac{1}{6}$? [EASY]
5. Compare the fractions $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$. Which one is larger? [MEDIUM]

■ Answer Key

For teacher/tutor reference

1. 2

2. Draw a rectangle or circle divided into 4 parts, shade 3 parts

3. $\frac{1}{2}$

4. 6

5. $\frac{1}{2}$ is larger than $\frac{1}{4}$