

Six Questions to Ask when Simplifying Fractions

1. Is the numerator one?

If yes, the fraction is in its simplest form.

$$\frac{1}{4} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{1}{2}$$

2. Is the numerator one less than the denominator?

If yes, the fraction is in its simplest form.

7 is one less than 8. $\frac{7}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 is one less than 2.

3. Can the denominator be evenly divided by the numerator?

If yes, divide both the numerator and denominator by the numerator. The remaining fraction will be in simplest form.

9 can be evenly divided by 3.
Divide the numerator and denominator by 3. $\frac{3 \div 3}{9 \div 3} = \frac{1}{3}$

4. Is the fraction made up of a number over its double?

If yes, then the simplest form of the fraction is always $\frac{1}{2}$.

4 doubled is 8. $\frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$

5. Are the numbers in the numerator and denominator both **even** numbers?

If yes, 2 is always a common factor. You can reduce the fraction by dividing the numerator and denominator by 2.

6 and 8 are even numbers. $\frac{6 \div 2}{8 \div 2} = \frac{3}{4}$

6. Does the numerator and denominator have any common factors?

If yes, divide the numerator and denominator by their greatest common factor. 3 is the GREATEST COMMON FACTOR of 6 and 9.

$$\frac{6 \div 3}{9 \div 3} = \frac{2}{3}$$

If they have no common factors, then the fraction is in simplest form.

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