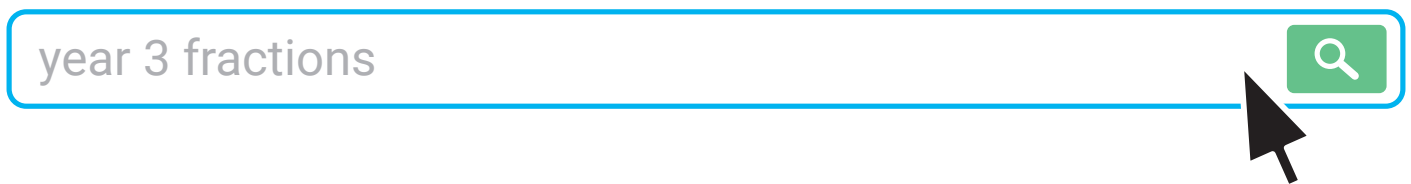


Year 3 Fractions: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

What is this guide?

This step-by-step explanation to learning fractions can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring. Whether your child is just learning to recognise different fractions or is already able to add and subtract fractions, there will be a suitable step for your child.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Year 3 Fractions

What Does the Maths National Curriculum Say about Fractions in Year 3?

In year 3, fractions work becomes more formal. Your child will usually be taught how to describe the numbers in a fraction as 'numerator' and 'denominator' so that they can understand the difference. This will help your child to learn to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator (bottom number). The national curriculum also suggests that children learn about equivalence, for example, knowing that two quarters is the same as one half. Children should also be able to count fractions and therefore be able to put them in order of size.

Solving Problems with Fractions

The national curriculum in England recommends that children solve problems using fractions as they learn the topic. These simple word problems use the same skills as children are learning, but the questions are presented in words, rather than as number-based calculations.

What Are Numerators and Denominators?

The top number of a fraction is the numerator and the bottom number is the denominator. The denominator tells us how many parts the whole thing is divided into and the numerator tells us how many of those smaller parts we are working with.

What Sort of Fractions Do Year 3 Children Work With?

In year 3, children work with fractions with small denominators and generally with fractions that add up to less than one, although your child may progress to adding up numbers bigger than one if they are ready for it. When they are taught to add and subtract fractions, this will begin with fractions that already have the same denominator. In later years, or when they are fully confident, they'll learn how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators.

Egg Box Fractions

Use a full box of eggs to talk to your child about fractions. Take two eggs out of the box ($\frac{2}{6}$). What fraction of eggs is left? ($\frac{4}{6}$). Try with different numbers of eggs. Can your child see if you write the fractions down, that adding the top numbers (numerators) together always adds up to 6 because $\frac{6}{6}$ is the whole set?

Coloured Chocolate Fractions

Use coloured, sugar-coated chocolates to create different fractions in a set. For example, ask your child to gather eight chocolates and make half of them red and half of them green. How many red are there? Can your child show you eight chocolates with one quarter of them being yellow and the rest orange? Can they do it and make each quarter a different colour? This type of sorting activity helps your child to recognise the connection between dividing and fractions.

Recipe fractions

Try finding an easy recipe, such as one for biscuits or fairy cakes. Make the recipe for half the number of biscuits/cakes. Get your child to halve all the quantities in the recipe and check it before they start.



Step 1

Matching Fractions Game

Print out these matching cards and (if you can) laminate them. Talk through some of the pictures with your child, reminding them that if something is divided into four, then the denominator (bottom number) of a fraction is 4. If three are shaded, the fraction is $\frac{3}{4}$ because 'three out of four' are shaded. Once they know this, it's time to play! You can start to discuss what some of the fractions might also mean. For example, when three out of three are shaded, that's the whole thing (1). When two quarters are shaded, this is the same as a half.

Fractions Stained Glass Windows

This step of our guide works to build up your child's confidence and the range of fractions they are able to work with. These sheets are differentiated, so to build confidence you can start with talking your child through the easiest sheet first, which is marked with one star. Move through the sheets, gradually removing support as you work through them. Make sure that you go through the answers (provided) at the end of the first sheet, so the feedback helps your child with the next one.

Step 2

Step 3

Adding and Subtracting Fractions

The best way to start adding fractions is to show the calculations visually as well as in numbers; this helps to bridge the gap between shading fractions and working with numbers and problems only. Start with adding fractions and use the sheet. Use the example on the top of the sheet to show you how to shade the circles with your child. Shade in the first fraction in the calculation, then say 'add [the second fraction]' and shade in the extra parts. Then count how many parts are shaded to get the numerator, and how many parts there are in total in each fraction to give you the denominator. In these calculations, the denominators are always the same. Once your child has mastered addition, then move on to subtraction.

Fractions Problems Activities

Children often find word problems harder than the maths they're written about. To help with this, read through each problem with your child and support them as they write down the fractions. Once they've learned to spot the fractions in each question, get them to work out if they are adding or subtracting and then write the calculation and work out the answer. Once you've done the first two or three together, let your child continue to follow the same pattern to finish the sheet. There's an answer sheet to guide you.

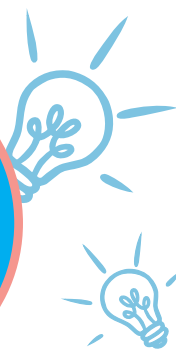
Step 4

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



twinkl
Go!



twinkl
Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



twinkl
Boost



twinkl
imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



twinkl
ORIGINALS



twinkl
KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!

