# Fraction Mistakes: Spot It, Fix It

Each card shows a student's work with one mistake. Find it, then fix it.

**1** A student wrote:

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{5}$$

What went wrong? _____

Correct answer: _____

**2** A student wrote:

$$\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{3}{10}$$

What went wrong? _____

Correct answer: _____

**3** A student wrote:

$$\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{0}$$

What went wrong? _____

Correct answer: _____

**4** A student wrote:

$$\frac{2}{3} = \frac{4}{5}$$

What went wrong? _____

Correct answer: _____

**5** A student wrote:

$$\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{6}$$

What went wrong? _____

Correct answer: _____

**6** A student wrote:

$$\frac{1}{3} = \frac{3}{6}$$

What went wrong? _____

Correct answer: _____

**7** A student wrote:

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{3}{9}$$

What went wrong? _____

Correct answer: _____

**8** A student wrote:

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$$

What went wrong? _____

Correct answer: _____

# Answer Key

the correct work and what went wrong

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{3}{6} + \frac{2}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$ | Added the tops and the bottoms. Halves and thirds are different-sized pieces. |
| 2 | $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{3}{5}$ | Added the denominators. The pieces are still fifths, so the bottom stays 5. |
| 3 | $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$ | Subtracted the denominators. Taking pieces away doesn't change their size. |
| 4 | $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{4}{6}$ | Added 2 to the top and bottom. To make an equivalent fraction, multiply both by the same number. |
| 5 | $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$ | Added across. 2/6 is less than 1/2, so it can't be the answer. |
| 6 | $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{6}$ | Multiplied the top by 3 but the bottom by 2. Both must be multiplied by the same number. |
| 7 | $\frac{4}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$ | Added across. Change thirds to sixths first: 2/3 = 4/6. |
| 8 | $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{2} = 1$ | Added the bottoms. Two halves make one whole, and 2/4 is only a half. |