



ANCHOR CHART · GRADE 5 · 5.NF.A.1

Subtracting Fractions, Unlike Denominators

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

1 Make Them Improper

$$2\frac{3}{4} = \frac{11}{4} \quad (2 \times 4 + 3 = 11)$$

$$1\frac{1}{3} = \frac{4}{3} \quad (1 \times 3 + 1 = 4)$$

Whole numbers hide pieces. Turn every whole into pieces before you subtract.

2 Find the LCD

$$4: 4 \quad 8 \quad 12 \quad 16 \quad 20$$

$$3: 3 \quad 6 \quad 9 \quad 12 \quad 15$$

first match = 12 → twelfths

List multiples of each denominator. The **first shared one** is the least common denominator.

3 Rename Both

$$\frac{11}{4} \times 3 \text{ top and bottom} = \frac{33}{12}$$

$$\frac{4}{3} \times 4 \text{ top and bottom} = \frac{16}{12}$$

Multiplying top and bottom by the same number changes the **name**, never the amount.

4 Subtract & Simplify

$$\frac{33}{12} - \frac{16}{12} = \frac{17}{12}$$

$$= 1\frac{5}{12}$$

Twelfths minus twelfths: $33 - 16 = 17$. Then pull the whole back out: 17 twelfths = 1 and 5 twelfths.