Vocabulary: Improper Fractions and Mixed Numbers



**Vocabulary**

* Denominator – the bottom number in a fraction.
	+ The denominator represents the number of equal parts the whole has been divided into.
	+ For example, in the fraction , the denominator shows that the whole has been divided into 5 equal parts.
* Equivalent – equal in value.
	+ Equivalent fractions are fractions that have different numerators and/or denominators but which represent the same amount.
	+ For example,  and  are equivalent fractions.
* Fraction – a number that shows the relationship between a part and a whole.
	+ A fraction consists of a *denominator* (bottom number) and a *numerator* (top number).
* Improper fraction – a fraction that has a numerator that is greater than or equal to its denominator.
	+ For example, , , and  are improper fractions.
	+ Improper fractions are greater than or equal to 1. Fractions that are less than 1 are sometimes called *proper fractions.*
	+ Improper fractions are sometimes called *top-heavy* fractions.
* Mixed number – a whole number combined with a fraction.
	+ For example,  and  are mixed numbers.
	+ Mixed numbers are a shorthand way to write a sum. For example, the mixed number  is equivalent to the sum 4 + .
	+ Mixed numbers are greater than 1 in value.
* Numerator – the top number in a fraction.
	+ The numerator counts the number of equal parts indicated by the fraction.
	+ For example, in the fraction , the numerator shows that the fraction refers to 3 of the 5 equal parts that make up the whole.