

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 $\frac{3}{5}$, 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, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$ 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, $\frac{3}{2}$, $\frac{22}{5}$, and $\frac{6}{6}$ 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, $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{2}{5}$ are mixed numbers.
 - Mixed numbers are a shorthand way to write a sum. For example, the mixed number $4\frac{2}{5}$ is equivalent to the sum $4 + \frac{2}{5}$.
 - 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 $\frac{3}{5}$, the numerator shows that the fraction refers to 3 of the 5 equal parts that make up the whole.