

Adding & Subtracting fractions with unlike denominators

example: $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{3}$

* can't add because denominators are different!

- ① Find a common multiple between the 2 denominators
* easiest is to multiply the 2 denominators together

$$5 \cdot 3 = 15$$

* this is our new denominator

- ② create equivalent fractions with new denominator

$$\frac{2}{5} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \times 3 \\ \hline \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array} = \frac{6}{15}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{3} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \times 5 \\ \hline \times 5 \\ \hline \end{array} = \frac{5}{15}$$

- ③ Add or subtract

$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{6}{15} \\ + \frac{5}{15} \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \left(\frac{11}{15} \right)$$