Unit 7 Fractions — Introduction

Learning objectives

This unit aims to give participants an understanding of

- the concepts of a fraction in diagrammatic form
- the concept of equivalent fractions
- calculating fractions if given quantities in context
- the relationship between mixed numbers and vulgar (improper) fractions.

Facts to remember

The number above the line is the *numerator*; the number below is the *denominator* $\left(\dfrac{\text{numerator}}{\text{denominator}}\right)$.

Equivalent fractions Note that, for example,

$$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{10}{20} = \frac{5}{10} = \frac{20}{40} = \frac{50}{100}, \text{ etc.}$$

but in its simplest form is $\dfrac{1}{2}$.

Mixed numbers These are of the form $\dfrac{a}{b}$ where $a > b$. Note though that a mixed number can be written in the form 'whole number + fraction'.

For example $\dfrac{20}{3} = 6\dfrac{2}{3}$