

Complex Fractions and Solving Rational Equations

Date _____ Period _____

Simplify each expression.

$$1) \frac{\frac{x-2}{25}}{\frac{x-2}{x}} = \frac{\cancel{x-2} \cdot \frac{x}{\cancel{x-2}}}{25} = \boxed{\frac{x}{25}}$$

$$2) \frac{\frac{x^2}{x+5}}{\frac{x}{25}} = \frac{x^2}{x+5} \cdot \frac{25}{x} = \frac{25x^2}{x(x+5)} = \frac{\cancel{x}(25x)}{\cancel{x}(x+5)} = \boxed{\frac{25x}{x+5}}$$

$$3) \frac{\frac{a^2}{5}}{\frac{a}{5}} = \frac{a^2}{\cancel{5}} \cdot \frac{\cancel{5}}{a} = \frac{a^2}{a} = \boxed{a}$$

$$4) \frac{\frac{m-2}{3m-2} - \frac{3m-2}{m^2}}{\frac{m-2}{3m-2}} = \frac{\frac{m^2(m-2) - (3m-2)^2}{m^2(3m-2)}}{\frac{m-2}{3m-2}} = \frac{m^2(m-2) - (3m-2)^2}{m^2(3m-2)} \cdot \frac{3m-2}{m-2} = \frac{m^2(m-2) - (3m-2)^2}{m^2(m-2)}$$

$$5) \frac{\frac{25}{a+4} - \frac{a+4}{a}}{\frac{25}{a}}$$

Combine

$$6) \frac{\frac{x^2}{\frac{x}{4} + \frac{x}{5}}}{\frac{5}{5} \cdot \frac{4}{4} + \frac{x}{5} \cdot \frac{4}{4}} = \frac{\frac{x^2}{\frac{5x+4x}{20}}}{\frac{5x+4x}{20}} = \frac{x^2}{\frac{5x+4x}{20}} \cdot \frac{20}{5x+4x} = \frac{x^2 \cdot 20}{9x(5x+4x)} = \frac{x^2 \cdot 20}{9x(20x)} = \frac{\cancel{x} \cdot 20}{9 \cdot \cancel{20x}} = \boxed{\frac{20x}{9}}$$

$$7) \frac{\frac{2x+3}{10} - \frac{2}{2x+3}}{\frac{5}{x-1} + \frac{2x+3}{x-1}}$$

$$8) \frac{\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{2}}{\frac{2}{3} + \frac{16}{3x}}$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad \frac{m-2}{3m-2} - \frac{3m-2}{m^2} = \left(\frac{m-2}{3m-2} - \frac{3m-2}{m^2} \right) \cdot \frac{3m-2}{m-2}$$

$$\frac{m-2}{3m-2} = \frac{\cancel{3m-2}}{m^2} \cdot \frac{m-2}{\cancel{3m-2}} - \frac{3m-2}{m^2} \cdot \frac{3m-2}{m-2}$$

In this way,
I did keep,
change, flip
first.

Remember, you need
to have like terms to
add or subtract

$$\frac{m^2(m-2)}{m^2(m-2)} - \frac{(3m-2)(3m-2)}{m^2(m-2)}$$

$$= \frac{m^2(m-2) - (3m-2)(3m-2)}{m^2(m-2)}$$

$$= \frac{m^3 - 2m^2 - (9m^2 - 12m + 4)}{m^2(m-2)}$$

$$= \frac{m^3 - 2m^2 - 9m^2 + 12m - 4}{m^2(m-2)}$$

$$= \frac{m^3 - 11m^2 + 12m - 4}{m^2(m-2)}$$

← okay + quit
here



← NOPE CANNOT
DO ANYTHING
ELSE

$$= \frac{m^2(m-11) + 4(3m-1)}{m^2(m-2)}$$

Factor Top
by grouping
to see if
anything else
can cancel

$$\textcircled{4} \frac{\frac{m-2}{m^2}}{\frac{3m-2}{m^2}} = \frac{3m-2}{m^2} \cdot \frac{(3m-2)}{(3m-2)}$$

$$\frac{m-2}{3m-2}$$

In this case, I simplified the numerator first.

$$\frac{m^2(m-2) - (3m-2)(3m-2)}{m^2(3m-2)} = \frac{m^3 - 2m^2 - (9m^2 - 12m + 4)}{m^2(3m-2)}$$

$$\frac{m-2}{3m-2}$$

$$\frac{m-2}{3m-2}$$

$$= \frac{m^3 - 2m^2 - 9m^2 + 12m - 4}{m^2(3m-2)}$$

Now, change,
keep, flip

$$\frac{m-2}{3m-2}$$

$$= \frac{(m^3 - 11m^2 + 12m - 4) \cdot \frac{3m-2}{m-2}}{m^2(3m-2)}$$

$$= \frac{m^3 - 11m^2 + 12m - 4}{m^2(m-2)}$$

$$= \frac{m^3 - 11m^2 + 12m - 4}{m^3 - 2m^2}$$

5.
$$\frac{\frac{25}{a+4} - \frac{a+4}{a}}{\frac{25}{a}}$$

WAY 2
①
$$\frac{\frac{a}{a} \cdot \frac{25}{a+4} - \frac{a+4}{a} \cdot \frac{(a+4)}{(a+4)}}{\frac{25}{a}}$$

②
$$\frac{25a - (a+4)(a+4)}{a(a+4)}$$

③
$$\frac{25a - (a^2 + 8a + 16)}{a(a+4)}$$

④
$$\frac{25a - a^2 - 8a - 16}{a(a+4)} \cdot \frac{a}{25}$$

⑤
$$\frac{-a^2 + 17a - 16}{25(a+4)}$$

or

$$\frac{-a^2 + 17a - 16}{25a + 100}$$

WAY 1
$$= \left(\frac{25}{a+4} - \frac{a+4}{a} \right) \cdot \frac{a}{25}$$

$$= \frac{a}{25} \cdot \frac{25}{a+4} - \frac{a+4}{a} \cdot \frac{a}{25}$$

$$= \frac{a}{a+4} - \frac{a+4}{25}$$

③ Need common denominator to combine
LCD: $25(a+4)$

$$= \frac{25}{25} \cdot \frac{a}{a+4} - \frac{a+4}{25} \cdot \frac{(a+4)}{(a+4)}$$

$$= \frac{25a - (a+4)(a+4)}{25(a+4)}$$

$$= \frac{25a - (a^2 + 8a + 16)}{25(a+4)}$$

$$= \frac{25a - a^2 - 8a - 16}{25(a+4)}$$

$$= \frac{-a^2 + 17a - 16}{25(a+4)}$$

$$= \frac{-a^2 + 17a - 16}{25a + 100}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{-(a^2 - 17a + 16)}{25(a+4)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{-(a-16)(a-1)}{25(a+4)}$$

7.

$$\frac{\frac{2x+3}{10} - \frac{2}{2x+3}}{\frac{5}{x-1} + \frac{2x+3}{x-1}}$$

← can already combine

$$\frac{\frac{(2x+3)}{(2x+3)} \frac{2x+3}{10} - \frac{2}{2x+3} \cdot \frac{10}{10}}{\frac{2x+8}{x-1}}$$

You can do keep, change, flip first or combine terms in numerator 1st. In this case it seems easier to simplify the numerator first.

$$\frac{\frac{(2x+3)(2x+3)}{10(2x+3)} - \frac{20}{10(2x+3)}}{\frac{2x+8}{x-1}} \Rightarrow \frac{\frac{4x^2+12x+9-20}{10(2x+3)}}{\frac{2x+8}{x-1}} = \frac{\frac{4x^2+12x-11}{10(2x+3)}}{\frac{2x+8}{x-1}}$$

Now
Keep, Change,
Flip *

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(4x^2+12x-11)}{10(2x+3)} \cdot \frac{x-1}{2x+8} \\ &= \frac{x(4x^2+12x-11) - 1(4x^2+12x-11)}{(20x+30)(2x+8)} \\ &= \frac{4x^3+12x^2-11x-4x^2-12x+11}{40x^2+160x+60x+240} \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{= \frac{4x^3+8x^2-23x+11}{40x^2+220x+240}}$$

$$8.) \frac{\frac{2}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{3}{3}}{\frac{x}{x} \cdot \frac{2}{3} + \frac{16}{3x}}$$

In this case, it is easier to simplify the numerator and the denominator first.

Now keep, change, flip

$$\frac{\frac{4}{6} - \frac{3}{6}}{\frac{2x}{3x} + \frac{16}{3x}} = \frac{\frac{1}{6}}{\frac{2x+16}{3x}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{3x}{2x+16}$$

← can factor out a 3 here

$$= \frac{3x}{12x+96}$$

$$= \frac{\cancel{3}x}{\cancel{3}(4x+32)}$$

$$\boxed{= \frac{x}{4x+32}}$$

$$11.) \left(\frac{2}{n} = 4 + \frac{1}{n} \right) n \quad \text{LCD: } n$$

$$\cancel{n} \cdot \frac{2}{\cancel{n}} = n \cdot 4 + \frac{1}{n} \cdot n$$

$$2 = 4n + 1$$

$$1 = 4n$$

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{4} = n}$$

$$\text{ck: } \frac{2}{\frac{1}{4}} = 4 + \frac{1}{\frac{1}{4}}$$

$$8 = \checkmark 4 + 4$$

$$8 = 8$$

$$12.) 5x \left(\frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{5x} - 1 \right)$$

$$\text{LCD: } 5x$$

$$5x \cdot \frac{1}{\cancel{x}} = 5x \cdot \frac{1}{5x} - 1 \cdot 5x$$

$$5 = 1 - 5x$$

$$5x = 1 - 5$$

$$5x = -4$$

$$\boxed{x = -\frac{4}{5}}$$

$$\text{ck: } \frac{1}{-\frac{4}{5}} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{1}{5 \cdot -\frac{4}{5}} - 1$$

$$-\frac{5}{4} = -\frac{1}{4} - 1$$

$$-\frac{5}{4} = \checkmark -\frac{5}{4}$$

(13) $4p \left(\frac{1}{4p} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{4}{p} \right)$

LCD: $4p$

$$4p \cdot \frac{1}{4p} + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 4p = \frac{4}{p} \cdot 4p$$

ck!

$$\frac{1}{4 \cdot 15} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{4}{15}$$

$$1 + p = 16$$

$$p = 15$$

$$\frac{1}{60} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{4}{15}$$

$$\frac{1}{60} + \frac{15}{60} = \frac{16}{60}$$

$$\frac{16}{60} = \frac{4}{15}$$

(14) $4p^2 \left(\frac{p-6}{4p^2} = \frac{3}{2p} - \frac{1}{p^2} \right)$

LCD: $4p^2$

$$4p^2 \cdot \frac{p-6}{4p^2} = \frac{3}{2p} \cdot 4p^2 - \frac{1}{p^2} \cdot 4p^2$$

ck!

$$p-6 = 6p-4$$

$$-6+4 = 6p-p$$

$$-2 = 5p$$

$$-\frac{2}{5} = p$$

$$\frac{-\frac{2}{5} - 6}{4(-\frac{2}{5})^2} = \frac{3}{2(-\frac{2}{5})} - \frac{1}{(-\frac{2}{5})^2}$$

$$-10 = -10$$

15. $\frac{6}{6x-5} = \frac{1}{6x-5} + \frac{x-3}{12x-10} \leftarrow \text{Simplify}$

$2(6x-5) \left(\frac{6}{6x-5} = \frac{1}{6x-5} + \frac{x-3}{2(6x-5)} \right)$ LCD: $2(6x-5)$

$2(6x-5) \cdot \frac{6}{6x-5} = 2(6x-5) \cdot \frac{1}{6x-5} + \frac{x-3}{2(6x-5)} \cdot 2(6x-5)$

$12 = 2 + x-3$

$12+1 = x$
 $13 = x$

CK: $\frac{6}{6(13)-5} = \frac{1}{6(13)-5} + \frac{13-3}{12(13)-10}$

16

$$\frac{1}{6b-2} + 1 = \frac{2b-2}{3b-1}$$

$$2(3b-1) \left(\frac{1}{2(3b-1)} + 1 \right) = \frac{2b-2}{3b-1}$$

$$\text{LCD: } 2(3b-1)$$

$$\cancel{2(3b-1)} \cdot \frac{1}{\cancel{2(3b-1)}} + 1 \cdot \cancel{2(3b-1)} = \frac{2b-2}{3b-1} \cdot \cancel{2(3b-1)}$$

$$1 + 6b - 2 = 4b - 4$$

$$6b - 4b = -4 + 1$$

ck:

$$\frac{1}{6(-3/2)-2} + 1 = \frac{2(-3/2)-2}{3(-3/2)-1}$$

$$2b = -3$$

$$b = -3/2$$

True

$$17.) \left(\frac{b^2 - 9b + 18}{b+1} = \frac{4b^2 - 8b - 96}{b+1} + \frac{b-6}{b+1} \right) \quad \text{LCD: } b+1$$

$$\cancel{b+1} \left(\frac{b^2 - 9b + 18}{\cancel{b+1}} \right) = \cancel{b+1} \cdot \frac{4b^2 - 8b - 96}{\cancel{b+1}} + (b-6)(\cancel{b+1})$$

$$b^2 - 9b + 18 = 4b^2 - 8b - 96 + b^2 - 5b - 6$$

$$b^2 - 9b + 18 = 5b^2 - 13b - 102$$

$$0 = 5b^2 - b^2 - 13b + 9b - 102 - 18$$

$$0 = 4b^2 - 4b - 120$$

$$0 = 4(b^2 - b - 30)$$

$$0 = 4(b-6)(b+5)$$

$$0 = (b-6)(b+5)$$

$$b-6=0 \quad \text{or} \quad b+5=0$$

$$b=6 \quad \text{or} \quad b=-5$$

check both:

$$\frac{b^2 - 9(b) + 18}{b+1} = \frac{4 \cdot b^2 - 8(b) - 96}{b+1} + \frac{(b-6)}{b+1}$$

$$\frac{36 - 54 + 18}{7} =$$

$$\frac{0}{7} =$$

$$18.) \frac{5x+10}{x^3+3x^2} + \frac{x^2+x-2}{x^3+3x^2} = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$x(x^2+3x)$$

$x \neq 0$

LCD: $x(x^2+3x)$

$$\cancel{x(x^2+3x)} \cdot \frac{5x+10}{\cancel{x(x^2+3x)}} + \frac{x^2+x-2 \cdot \cancel{x(x^2+3x)}}{x(x^2+3x)} = \frac{1}{\cancel{x}} \cdot \cancel{x(x^2+3x)}$$

$$5x+10 + x^2+x-2 = x^2+3x$$

$$6x+8 = 3x$$

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} 3x = -8 \\ x = -8/3 \end{array}}$$

$$\text{CK: } \frac{5(-8/3)+10}{(-8/3)^2+3(-8/3)^2} + \frac{(-8/3)^2+(-8/3)-2}{(-8/3)^2+3(-8/3)^2} = \frac{1}{-8/3}$$