

## Subtracting Fractions

Subtracting fractions is done very much the same way as adding the fractions. Same condition; to subtract two or more fractions their denominators have to be same. Once the denominators are same subtract the numerators instead adding them. Let's start to learn how to subtract fractions:

**Example 1:** Subtract the following [fractions](#).

$$\frac{5}{8} - \frac{3}{8}$$

**Solution:**

$$\frac{5}{8} - \frac{3}{8}$$

*As denominators are already same, just take away the numerator. That is,  $5 - 3 = 2$  is new numerator.*

$$= \frac{\overset{1}{\cancel{2}}}{\cancel{8} 4}$$

*2 and 8 are both divisible by 2 (their gcd). Cut both 2 and 8 by 2 to get 1 on the top (as  $2 \div 2 = 1$ ) and 4 at bottom (as  $8 \div 2 = 4$ ).*

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

**Example 2:** Subtract the following fractions.

$$\frac{3}{5} - \frac{2}{7}$$

**Solution:**

$$\frac{3}{5} - \frac{2}{7}$$

*Both fractions have different denominators 5 and 7. So, find out lcd of 5 and 7 which is 35. Now make both denominators = 35.*

$$= \frac{3 \times 7}{5 \times 7} - \frac{2 \times 5}{7 \times 5}$$

*Remember! Multiply both numerator and denominator with the same number (shown in red) to change into equivalent fraction.*

$$= \frac{21}{35} - \frac{10}{35} = \frac{11}{35}$$