

Example 3: Subtract the following [fraction](#) from a whole number:

$$9 - \frac{2}{3}$$

Solution:

$$\frac{9}{1} - \frac{2}{3}$$

You know that every whole number can be written as a fraction having 1 as its denominator. So, write 9 as 9/1.

$$= \frac{9 \times 3}{1 \times 3} - \frac{2}{3}$$

$$= \frac{27}{3} - \frac{2}{3}$$

$$= \frac{25}{3} = 8 \frac{1}{3}$$

Convert improper fraction into mixed number.

$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ 3 \overline{) 25} \\ \underline{-24} \\ 1 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{25}{3} = 8 \frac{1}{3}$$

Example 4: [Subtract the following fractions](#)

$$2 \frac{9}{12} - \frac{3}{8}$$

Solution:

$$2 \frac{9}{12} - \frac{3}{8}$$

lcd for 12 and 8 = 24

$$= 2 \frac{9 \times 2}{12 \times 2} - \frac{3 \times 3}{8 \times 3}$$

$$= 2 \frac{18}{24} - \frac{9}{24}$$

$$= 2 \frac{\cancel{9}^3}{\cancel{24}_8} = 2 \frac{3}{8}$$

When you are subtracting a proper fraction from a mixed number, the answer gets the same whole number as the original mixed number (most of the times).

Now 9 and 24 have 3 as their gcf, so cut down both of them into 3 over 8. Keep in mind, I divided both 9 and 24 by 3 to get the reduced mixed number as the answer.