Name…………………………………………………………………………

Mathematics Comprehension

$\frac{3}{8} + \frac{6}{4}$

Fractions

Would you rather have **half** or a **quarter** of a cake? Yes, I thought you'd probably prefer half the cake – but just don't eat it all at once! We use fractions every day when we need to show parts of the whole thing and they really are very useful indeed.

In mathematics we write fractions in a certain way. The top number (or numerator) shows how many parts we have and the bottom number (or denominator) shows how many of these parts make the whole thing. Easy, right?

Now (and this is really important) the parts need to be exactly the same size – and I mean exactly! Imagine you were dividing the cake to share with three of your friends. You would need to divide it into four quarters – remember you want a piece too! You'd be annoyed if they weren't the same size – particularly if you received the smallest piece.

Some people find fractions a bit confusing (especially at first) but there really isn't anything to be scared of. My top tip is to picture them. Drawing them really helps to start with, but later (as you get more used to them) you can simply imagine what they look like instead.

1. When do we use fractions?

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2. What are the numerator and denominator?

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3. Why does every part need to be the same size?

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4. What is a top tip to help you understand fractions?

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Answers

1. When we need to show parts of a whole.
2. The numerator is the top number and shows how many parts we have. The denominator is the bottom number and show how many parts make the whole.
3. Because otherwise the parts would not be the fraction they are supposed to be.
4. Draw the fractions and later imagine them.

Name...

Mathematics Comprehension

1.

2.

3.

4.

Answers

1.

2.

3.

4.