

Adding Fractions

Junior high school/
Elementary school
(upper grades)

Objective

Understand and use fractions.
Calculate with fractions and understand the results.

Explanation of the activity

Using the calculator, find the sum of two given fractions each having 1 in the numerator.
Look for patterns to help understand how to add the fractions without using the calculator.
This activity suggests an approach to teaching addition of common fractions.

Using the calculator

Calculator functions used: Addition, fractional calculation

Press the following buttons and then start operation.



Example:

Using fractional calculation, find the sum of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$.



$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} =$ on the calculator display means $\frac{5}{6}$.

Convert $\frac{5}{6}$ to decimal notation.



$0.83333\cdots$ $\frac{a}{b}$ on the calculator display means $\frac{5}{6}$.

Find the sums of other common fractions.



