

MULTIPLYING AND DIVIDING RATIONAL EXPRESSIONS

Example 1:

$$\frac{x^2-16}{3x+12} \cdot \frac{x^2+5x}{x^2+x-20} \quad \text{factor all parts} \quad \frac{\cancel{(x+4)}\cancel{(x-4)}}{3\cancel{(x+4)}} \cdot \frac{x\cancel{(x+5)}}{\cancel{(x+5)}\cancel{(x-4)}}$$

Cross out all that are the same top to bottom

$$= \frac{x}{3}$$

Example 2:

$$\frac{x-7}{x^2+6x} \cdot \frac{4x+24}{x^2-3x-28} \quad \text{factor all parts} \quad \frac{\cancel{(x-7)}}{x(x+6)} \cdot \frac{4\cancel{(x+6)}}{\cancel{(x-7)}(x+4)}$$

Cross out all that are the same top to bottom

$$= \frac{4}{x(x+4)}$$

Example 3:

$$\frac{x^2-11x+32}{x^2-64} \div \frac{x^2-16}{5x+20} \quad \text{Flip second fraction} \quad \frac{x^2-11x+32}{x^2-64} \div \frac{5x+20}{x^2-16}$$

$$\text{factor all parts} \quad \frac{\cancel{(x-8)}\cancel{(x-4)}}{\cancel{(x-8)}(x+8)} \cdot \frac{5\cancel{(x+4)}}{\cancel{(x-4)}\cancel{(x+4)}}$$

Cross out all that are the same top to bottom

$$= \frac{5}{(x+8)}$$

ADDING AND SUBTRACTING RATIOINAL EXPRESSIONS

Example 1:

$$\frac{5}{x^2 - x - 30} + \frac{8(x+5)}{x-6}$$

$$\frac{(x-6)(x+5)}{(x-6)(x+5)}$$

$$\frac{5}{(x-6)(x+5)} + \frac{8x+40}{(x-6)(x+5)} = \frac{8x+45}{(x-6)(x+5)}$$

Example 2:

$$\frac{3x(x+5)}{x+9} - \frac{7x-2}{x^2+4x-45}$$

$$\frac{(x+9)(x-5)}{(x+9)(x-5)}$$

$$\frac{3x^2+15x}{(x+9)(x-5)} - \frac{7x-2}{(x+9)(x-5)} = \frac{3x^2+15x-7x+2}{(x+9)(x-5)} = \frac{3x^2+8x+2}{(x+9)(x-5)}$$

Example 3:

$$\frac{x-4(x-2)}{x+3} - \frac{x+5(x+3)}{x-2}$$

$$(x-4)(x-2) = x^2 - 2x - 4x + 8 = x^2 - 6x + 8$$

$$(x+5)(x+3) = x^2 + 3x + 5x + 15 = x^2 + 8x + 15$$

$$\frac{x^2-6x+8}{(x+3)(x-2)} - \frac{x^2+8x+15}{(x+3)(x-2)} = \frac{x^2-6x+8-x^2-8x-15}{(x+3)(x-2)} = \frac{-14x-7}{(x+3)(x-2)}$$

SOLVING RATIONAL EXPRESSIONS

Example 1:

$$\frac{4}{x-3} = \frac{8}{x^2-3x} \quad \text{Cross multiply}$$

$$4(x^2-3x) = 8(x-3)$$

$$4x^2-12x = 8x - 12 \quad \text{move all to right}$$
$$-8x$$

$$4x^2-20x + 12 = 0$$

$$4(x^2-4x + 3)$$

$$(x-3)(x-4)$$

$$x = 3, 4$$

Example 2:

$$x \frac{3}{2x} - \frac{6x}{3x} = 2 \quad \text{Multiply all by } 6x$$

$$9 - 10 = 12x$$

$$-1 = 12x \quad x = \frac{-1}{12}$$