

E Lent Algebraic Fractions

Patrons are reminded that if something looks like it factorises then factorise it. And don't make the donkey-like mistake

$$\frac{2+x}{3+x} = \frac{2}{3} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{2+x}{3+x} = \frac{3}{4}.$$

You can only cancel when there is a multiplicative relationship; for example

$$\frac{2x+2}{x^2+x} = \frac{2(x+1)}{x(x+1)} = \frac{2}{x}.$$

1. Combine the following algebraic fractions, fully simplifying your answer.

(a) $\frac{2}{x+4} + \frac{3}{x+1}$.

$$\frac{5x+14}{(x+1)(x+4)}$$

(l) $\frac{5}{x^2+3x} + \frac{2}{x+3}$.

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

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

$$\frac{8x+2}{(x+4)(x-2)}$$

(m) $\frac{x}{x^2-x-6} - \frac{3}{2x+4}$.

$$\frac{9-x}{2(x-3)(x+2)}$$

(c) $\frac{3}{x-1} - \frac{5}{x+2}$.

$$\frac{11-2x}{(x-1)(x+2)}$$

(n) $\frac{x+1}{x^2-4x+3} - \frac{x-3}{x^2-1}$.

$$\frac{8}{(x+1)(x-3)}$$

(d) $\frac{1}{x-5} - \frac{3}{x-7}$.

$$\frac{8-2x}{(x-5)(x-7)}$$

(o) $\frac{2}{x} - \frac{3}{x^2-x} - \frac{4}{x-1}$.

$$-\frac{2x+5}{x(x-1)}$$

(e) $\frac{3}{2x+4} - \frac{1}{3x+6}$.

$$\frac{7}{6(x+2)}$$

(p) $\frac{1}{x-1} - \frac{1}{x^2+x-2} + \frac{4}{x+2}$.

$$\frac{5x-3}{(x-1)(x+2)}$$

(f) $\frac{a}{x+b} + \frac{a}{x+c}$.

$$\frac{2ax+ab+ac}{(x+b)(x+c)}$$

(q) $\frac{2}{x^2-x} - \frac{1}{x^2-1}$.

$$\frac{1}{x(x-1)}$$

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

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

(r) $\frac{3}{2x-3} + \frac{1}{x-4} - \frac{5x}{2x^2-11x+12}$.

$$\frac{15}{(2x-3)(x-4)}$$

(h) $\frac{5}{2-x} + 3 + \frac{1}{x+1}$.

$$\frac{3x^2-7x-13}{(x+1)(x-2)}$$

(s) $\frac{a}{x+1} - \frac{b}{x^2+2x+1} - \frac{c}{(x+1)^3}$.

$$-\frac{15}{(2x-3)(x-4)}$$

(i) $\frac{a}{x+k} + \frac{b}{x+2k}$.

$$\frac{ax+bx+2ak+bk}{(x+k)(x+2k)}$$

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

$$-\frac{15}{(2x-3)(x-4)}$$

(k) $\frac{1}{(x-1)^2} - \frac{2}{x-1}$.

$$\frac{3-2x}{(x-1)^2}$$

(u) $\frac{ax^2+2ax-bx+a-b-c}{(x+1)^3}$.

$$\frac{ax^2+2ax-bx+a-b-c}{(x+1)^3}$$

2. Write the following as a single fraction.

(a) $\frac{1}{\frac{2}{x-4} - 3}$.

$$\frac{x-4}{14-3x}$$

(g) $\frac{\frac{3}{x-2} + 2}{1 - \frac{4}{x}}$.

$$\frac{x(2x+1)}{(x-2)(x-4)}$$

(b) $\frac{3}{\frac{1}{x-2} + \frac{2}{x}}$.

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

(h) $\frac{\frac{4}{3x}}{\frac{1}{x} - \frac{2}{x+1}}$.

$$\frac{4(x+1)}{3(1-x)}$$

(c) $\frac{\frac{1}{x}}{2 - \frac{3}{x}}$.

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

(i) $\frac{\frac{1}{x-1} + \frac{3}{x-2}}{\frac{1}{x-1} - \frac{2}{x+3}}$.

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

(d) $\frac{\frac{4}{x-1}}{1 - \frac{3}{x-1}}$.

$$\frac{4}{x-4}$$

(j) $\frac{1 - \frac{2}{x-3}}{\frac{1}{x+2} - 1}$.

$$-\frac{(x-5)(x+2)}{(x-3)(x+1)}$$

(e) $\frac{2 + \frac{5}{x+3}}{\frac{1}{x+3} - 7}$.

$$-\frac{2x+11}{7x+20}$$

(k) $\frac{\frac{a-b}{b} + \frac{c-b}{c}}{\frac{a}{b} - \frac{b}{c}}$.

$$-\frac{(x-5)(x+2)}{(x-3)(x+1)}$$

(f) $\frac{a - \frac{c}{x+b}}{e + \frac{f}{x+b}}$.

$$\frac{ax+ab-c}{ex+eb+f}$$

(l) $1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{x}}}$.

$$\frac{3x+2}{2x+1}$$

$$(m) 3 - \frac{\frac{5}{x-1}}{x - \frac{4}{x-1}} \quad \boxed{\frac{3x^2-3x-17}{x^2-x-4}}$$

$$(o) \frac{2}{3 + \frac{4}{5 + \frac{6}{x}}} - \frac{1}{2 + \frac{3}{4 + \frac{5}{x}}} \quad \boxed{\frac{34x^2+65x+30}{(19x+18)(11x+10)}}$$

$$(n) \frac{1}{\frac{1}{x+1} + 1} - \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{x}}} \quad \boxed{0 \text{ (ho ho)}}$$

3. Cancel the following to their simplest form.

$$(a) \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2 + 5x + 4} \quad \boxed{\frac{x-1}{x+4}}$$

$$(f) \frac{x^2 + 6x + 8}{x^2 - 4x + 3} \div \frac{2x + 8}{x - 3} \quad \boxed{\frac{x+2}{2(x-1)}}$$

$$(b) \frac{2x^2 + 7x - 4}{2x^2 + 9x - 5} \quad \boxed{\frac{x+4}{x+5}}$$

$$(g) \frac{\pi x^2 - \pi x - 2\pi}{x^3 + x^2 - 6x} \div \frac{2x + 2}{3x + 9} \quad \boxed{\frac{3\pi}{2x}}$$

$$(c) \frac{4x^2 - 8x - 12}{2x^2 - 2x - 12} \quad \boxed{\frac{2(x+1)}{(x+2)}}$$

$$(h) \frac{12x^2 + 10x + 2}{2x - 6} \div \frac{18x^2 + 15x + 3}{5x - 15} \quad \boxed{\frac{5}{3}}$$

$$(d) \frac{4\pi x^2 - \pi}{12\pi x^2 - 10\pi x + 2\pi} \quad \boxed{\frac{2x+1}{2(3x-1)}}$$

$$(i) \frac{2x^2 + 2x - 4}{3x^3 - 3x} \div \frac{4x + 8}{9 + 9x} \quad \boxed{\frac{3}{2x}}$$

$$(e) \frac{2a^2x^2 + a^2x - 10a^2}{2ax^2 - 2ax - 4a} \quad \boxed{\frac{a(2x+5)}{2(x+1)}}$$

$$(j) \frac{4x^2 - 1}{2x^2 - 7x - 4} \div \frac{2x^2 + 5x - 3}{2x^2 - 2x - 24} \quad \boxed{2}$$

4. Find the value of the capital letters which make the following identities correct.

$$(a) \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x+1} \equiv \frac{5x+2}{x(x+1)} \quad \boxed{A=2, B=3}$$