Mixed Numbers Example

A mixed number combines a whole number and a proper fraction. To add mixed numbers with unlike denominators, convert them to improper fractions, find a common denominator, add, and then convert the result back if desired. This keeps the whole and fractional parts in a single exact calculation.

Example

Add 2 1/3 + 1 3/4.

$$2\ 1/3 + 1\ 3/4$$

Step-by-step solution

STEP 1

Convert to improper fractions

Multiply each whole part by its denominator and add its numerator.

$$2\ 1/3 = 7/3;\ 1\ 3/4 = 7/4$$

STEP 2

Use denominator 12

Multiply 7/3 by 4/4 and 7/4 by 3/3.

$$7/3 = 28/12;\ 7/4 = 21/12$$

STEP 3

Add the fractions

Add the numerators and keep the common denominator.

$$28/12 + 21/12 = 49/12$$

STEP 4

Convert to a mixed number

49 divided by 12 is 4 remainder 1.

$$49/12 = 4\ 1/12$$

ANSWER

2 1/3 + 1 3/4 = 4 1/12

The whole parts total 3, and 1/3 + 3/4 = 13/12 = 1 1/12. Together they make 4 1/12.

Use this worked example to review the method, then try a similar problem on your own.