

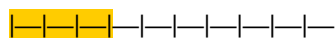
One Whole and Its Fractional Parts

When we use fractions, they always relate to some kind of *one whole*.

Maybe the one whole is this square. If it is divided into 16 parts, each part is $\frac{1}{16}$ of the whole.



Maybe the one whole is this line. $\frac{3}{10}$ of it is colored.



Maybe the one whole is Daddy's salary. If we need to find $\frac{5}{6}$ of it, we imagine dividing the salary into 6 parts, and taking five of those parts.

Now you write down two more examples. You can draw a picture, too.

Maybe the one whole is _____,

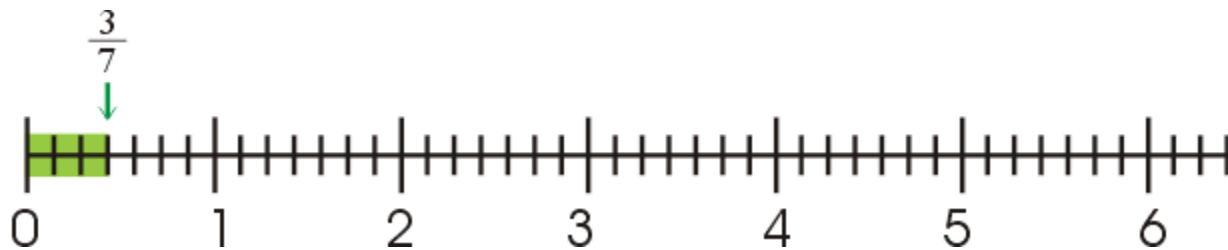
and it is divided into _____.

Maybe the one whole is _____,

and _____.

$\frac{3}{11}$ The top number is the **numerator**. It *numerates* or counts *how many pieces* there are.
The bottom number is the **denominator**. It *denominates* or *names* what kind of parts they are.

If you have a fraction alone as a number, such as $\frac{3}{7}$, then the one whole you are comparing to is the number 1. We can illustrate $\frac{3}{7}$ on a number line where each whole-number interval is from 0 to 1, from 1 to 2, from 2 to 3, and so on, is divided into seven parts.



A number line is great for illustrating *mixed numbers*, too. In mixed numbers, you have both a whole number and a fraction.

