Understanding Fractions

Fractions are PARTS of a WHOLE. The WHOLE is always divided into EQUAL parts.

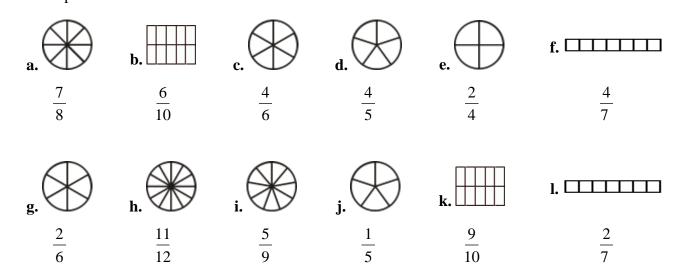
One part is colored; two equal parts; <u>one half</u> .	$\frac{1}{2}$	Two parts are colored; two equal parts; <u>two halves</u> OR <u>one whole</u> . $\frac{2}{2} = 1$
One part is colored; four equal parts; <u>one fourth</u> .	$\frac{1}{4}$	Two parts are colored; five equal parts, two fifths. $\frac{2}{5}$
Three colored parts; seven equal parts; <u>three sevenths</u> .	$\frac{3}{7}$	Can you tell what fraction this is?

The number ABOVE the line tells **HOW MANY PARTS** are colored. It *enumerates* or *counts* the colored parts.

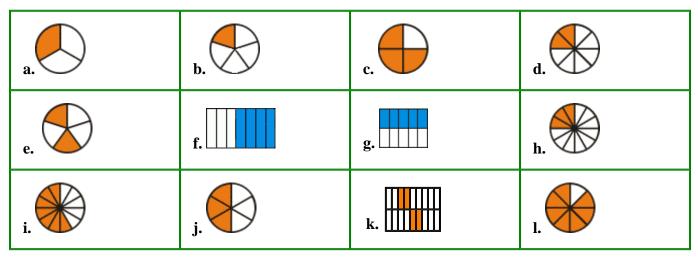
3 NUMERATOR 8 DENOMINATOR "three eighths" The number BELOW the line tells **WHAT KIND OF PARTS** the whole is divided into. It *denominates* or *names* the parts.

We use ordinal numbers to name the fractional parts.

1. Color parts to illustrate the fraction.

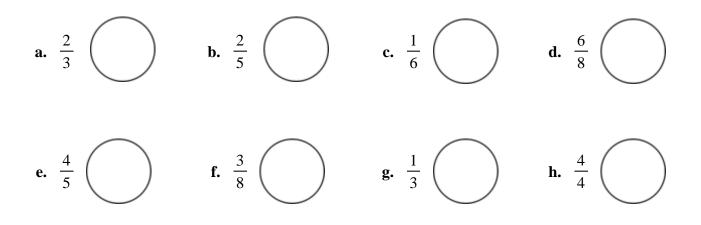


2. Write the fractions, and read them aloud.



How to draw pie models					
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Halves: split the circle with a straight line.	Thirds: draw lines at 12 o'clock, 4 o'clock, and 8 o'clock.	Fourths: First draw halves, then split those like a cross pattern.			
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Fifths: Draw as a man doing jumping jacks.	Sixths: First draw thirds, then split those	Eighths: First draw fourths, then split those.			

3. Draw the pie models and color the parts to illustrate the fractions.



Sample worksheet from www.MathMammoth.com