How to Multiply Fractions Together

KS2 MATHS FRACTIONS MULTIPLICATION Ages 10-12 ⏰ 3 min read

The Golden Rule of Fraction Multiplication

Multiplying fractions might look tricky, but it's actually much simpler than adding or subtracting them! The **golden rule** is: multiply the **top numbers** together, and multiply the **bottom numbers** together. That's it!

When we write a fraction like **3/4**, the number on top is called the **numerator** and the number on the bottom is called the **denominator**. So if you're multiplying **2/3 × 3/5**, you multiply **2 × 3** to get the new numerator, and **3 × 5** to get the new denominator. Your answer is **6/15**.

Think of it like combining pizza slices. If you have **1/2** of a pizza and you want to find **1/3** of that half, you're multiplying. You're finding a fraction of a fraction, which gives you a smaller piece.

A Simple Step-by-Step Example

Let's multiply **2/5 × 1/3**. First, multiply the numerators: **2 × 1 = 2**. Next, multiply the denominators: **5 × 3 = 15**. Your answer is **2/15**. Easy!

Sometimes your answer can be **simplified** (made smaller). For example, if you get **6/15**, you can divide both the top and bottom by **3** to get **2/5**. This is the same amount, just written more simply.

Think of it like photocopying a photocopy. When you multiply fractions, you're making a fraction smaller, just like a blurry copy of a copy.

Why This Works

Fractions show parts of a whole. When you multiply fractions, you're finding a part of a part. Imagine you have **1/2** of a chocolate bar. If you eat **1/3** of that half, you haven't eaten half the bar anymore—you've eaten a smaller amount. Multiplying shows exactly how small that amount is.

Practice with Whole Numbers

You can also multiply a fraction by a **whole number**. Just put the whole number over **1** first. So **4 × 3/5** becomes **4/1 × 3/5**, which equals **12/5**. You can even turn that into a **mixed number**: **2 2/5**.