

Parts of a Fraction

Materials contained in this handout are excerpted from:

Fractions and Decimals

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Parts of a Fraction

Each part of a fraction has a name. The number written under the line is the denominator. The top number is called the numerator.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \longrightarrow \text{numerator} \\ \hline 8 \longrightarrow \text{denominator} \end{array}$$

The denominator tells you the total number of equal parts. The numerator tells you how many of the equal parts you are dealing with.

Bottom Number = Total number of equal parts

Top Number = How many equal parts you are dealing with

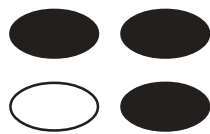
Look at the picture shown below. What is the total number of circles shown? How many of the circles are black?

If you were writing this as a fraction it would look like this:

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{2} = \text{the number of circles blackened (numerator)} \\ 5 = \text{the total number of circles (denominator)} \end{array}$$



Suppose you were writing a fraction for each of the pictures below showing the relationship of black parts to white parts. In the blanks provided write the information requested for each picture. The first one has been done for you.



1. 3 (Numerator)



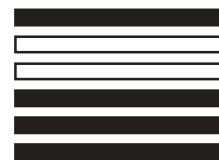
2. (Denominator)



3. (Numerator)



4. (Denominator)



5. (Numerator)