

# Subtracting Fractions

To subtract fractions, we must ensure that the fractions in the calculation have **common denominators**.

 **Example**

Work out  $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{7}{12}$

$$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{7}{12}$$

**1** Find the **LCM (lowest common multiple)** of the denominators.  
The LCM of 6 and 12 is 12

$$= \frac{10}{12} - \frac{7}{12}$$

**2** Use equivalent fractions to change the fractions so that they have like denominators.

$$= \frac{3}{12}$$

**3** Add the numerators.

$$= \frac{1}{4}$$

**4** Simplify the answer if possible.

 **Example**

Work out  $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{6}$

$$\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{6}$$

**1** Find the **LCM (lowest common multiple)** of the denominators.  
The LCM of 4 and 6 is 12

$$= \frac{9}{12} - \frac{2}{12}$$

**2** Use equivalent fractions to change the fractions so that they have like denominators.

$$= \frac{7}{12}$$

**3** Add the numerators.