

# Adding Fractions

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

 **Example**

Work out  $\frac{3}{5} + \frac{1}{10}$

$$\frac{3}{5} + \frac{1}{10}$$

**1** Find the **LCM (lowest common multiple)** of the denominators.  
The LCM of 5 and 10 is 10

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

**3** Add the numerators.

$$= \frac{6}{10} + \frac{1}{10}$$

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

 **Example**

Work out  $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{4}{7}$

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{4}{7}$$

**1** Find the **LCM (lowest common multiple)** of the denominators.  
The LCM of 3 and 7 is 21

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

**3** Add the numerators.

**4** Simplify the answer if possible.

$$= \frac{14}{21} + \frac{12}{21}$$

$$= \frac{26}{21}$$

$$= 1\frac{5}{21}$$