

Reciprocals

The **reciprocal** of a number is its **multiplicative inverse**.

When you multiply a number by its reciprocal, you get the answer 1

 **Example**

The reciprocal of 5 is $\frac{1}{5}$, because $5 \times \frac{1}{5} = 1$

$\times \frac{1}{5}$ is the same as $\div 5$

We can find the reciprocal by writing the original number as a fraction (if it isn't one already) and then “flipping” it.

 **Example**

Find the reciprocal of 12

$$12 = \frac{12}{1} \xrightarrow{\text{Flip}} \frac{1}{12}$$

 **Example**

Find the reciprocal of $\frac{3}{4}$

$$\frac{3}{4} \xrightarrow{\text{Flip}} \frac{4}{3}$$