

What you will learn about:
Simplifying Rational Expressions

→ Fraction

Rational Expression

$$\frac{p(x)}{q(x)}, q \neq 0$$

Undefined Values –

What makes the bottom zero

$$\frac{x+3}{7}$$

Examples of Rational Functions

$$-\frac{13}{42}$$

$$\frac{7y}{8z}$$

$$\frac{5x+2}{x^2-7}$$

$$\frac{4x^2+3x-1}{2x-8}$$

Determine the values for which the rational expression is undefined

$$\frac{9y}{x}$$

$$x=0$$

$$\frac{4b-3}{2b+5}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2b+5 &= 0 \\ 2b &= -5 \\ b &= -\frac{5}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{x+4}{x^2+5x+6}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^2+5x+6 &= 0 \\ (x+2)(x+3) &= 0 \\ x+2=0 \quad x+3=0 \\ x &= -2 \quad x = -3 \end{aligned}$$

Evaluate $\frac{y+1}{2y-3}$ for each value:

$$y=1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1+1}{2(1)-3} \\ \frac{2}{-1} = -2 \end{aligned}$$

$$y=-3$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{-3+1}{2(-3)-3} \\ \frac{-2}{-9} = \frac{2}{9} \end{aligned}$$

$$y=0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{0+1}{2(0)-3} \\ \frac{1}{-3} = -\frac{1}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Evaluate $\frac{x^2+8x+7}{x^2-4}$ for each value:

$$x=0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{0^2+8(0)+7}{(0)^2-4} \\ \frac{7}{-4} \end{aligned}$$

$$x=2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(2)^2+8(2)+7}{(2)^2-4} \\ \frac{27}{0} \\ \text{Undefined} \end{aligned}$$

$$x=-1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(-1)^2+8(-1)+7}{(-1)^2-4} \\ \frac{1-8+7}{-3} = \frac{0}{-3} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Simplified Rational Expression
A Rational expression is considered simplified if there are not common factors in its numerator and denominator.

Equivalent Fractions Property

If a , b and c , are numbers where $b \neq 0$, and $c \neq 0$, then
 $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{a \cdot c}{b \cdot c}$ and $\frac{a \cdot c}{b \cdot c} = \frac{a}{b}$

Simplify a Rational Expression
Step 1 - Factor the numerator and denominator completely

Step 2 - Simplify by dividing out common factors.

We can only divide out (cancel)
Factors not terms
multiply

$$(p^2 - p^2) + (2p - 4)$$

$$p^2(p-1) + 2(p-2)$$

Simplify:

$$-\frac{36}{63} = -\frac{4}{7}$$

$$\frac{45}{81} = \frac{5}{9}$$

$$-\frac{42}{54} = -\frac{7}{9}$$

Simplify:

$$\frac{2x+8}{5x+20}$$

$$\frac{2(x+4)}{5(x+4)} = \frac{2}{5}$$

$$\frac{3x-6}{2x-4}$$

$$\frac{3(x-2)}{2(x-2)} = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$\frac{7y+35}{5y+25}$$

$$= \frac{7(y+5)}{5(y+5)} = \frac{7}{5}$$

$$\frac{x^2+5x+6}{x^2+8x+12}$$

$$\frac{(x+3)(x+2)}{(x+2)(x+6)} = \frac{x+3}{x+6}$$

$$\frac{x^2-x-2}{x^2-3x+2}$$

$$\frac{(x-2)(x+1)}{(x-2)(x-1)} = \frac{x+1}{x-1}$$

$$\frac{x^2-3x-10}{x^2+x-2}$$

$$\frac{(x-5)(x+2)}{(x+2)(x-1)} = \frac{x-5}{x-1}$$

$$\frac{y^2+y-42}{y^2-36}$$

$$\frac{(y+7)(y-6)}{(y+6)(y-6)} = \frac{y+7}{y+6}$$

$$\frac{x^2+x-6}{x^2-4}$$

$$\frac{(x+3)(x-2)}{(x-2)(x+2)} = \frac{x+3}{x+2}$$

$$\frac{p^3-p^2+2p-4}{p^2-7p+10}$$

$$\frac{p^3-p^2+2p-4}{(p-5)(p-2)}$$

$$\frac{2n^2-14n}{4n^2-16n-48}$$

$$\frac{2n(n-7)}{4(n^2-4n-12)}$$

$$\frac{3b^2-12b+12}{6b^2-24}$$

$$\frac{3(b^2-4b+4)}{6(b^2-4)}$$

$$\frac{2x^2-12x+18}{3x^2-27}$$

$$\frac{2(x^2-6x+9)}{3(x^2-9)}$$

$$\frac{2n(n-7)}{4(n-6)(n-2)}$$

$$\frac{n(n-7)}{2(n-6)(n-2)}$$

$$\frac{3(b-2)(b-2)}{6(b-2)(b+2)}$$

$$\frac{b-2}{2(b+2)}$$

$$\frac{2(x-3)(x-3)}{3(x-3)(x+3)}$$

$$\frac{2(x-3)}{3(x+3)}$$

Rational Expressions with
opposite Factors

$$x+8 = 8+x$$

$$\frac{\frac{m^3+8}{m^2-4}}{\frac{(m+2)(m^2-2m+4)}{(m-2)(m+2)}} = \frac{m^2-2m+4}{m-2}$$

$$\frac{\frac{p^3-64}{p^2-16}}{\frac{(p-4)(p^2+4p+16)}{(p-4)(p+4)}} = \frac{p^2+4p+16}{p+4}$$

$$\frac{\frac{(x+2)(x^2-2x+4)}{(x+2)(x-2)}}{\frac{(x+2)(x-2)}}{x-2}} = \frac{x^2-2x+4}{x-2}$$

$$\frac{x-8}{8-x} = \frac{x-8}{-x+8} = \frac{x-8}{-(x-8)} = -1$$

$$\frac{14-2x}{x^2-49} = \frac{-2x+14}{x^2-49} = \frac{-2(x-7)}{(x-7)(x+7)} = \frac{-2}{x+7}$$

$$\frac{3y-27}{81-y^2} = \frac{3y-27}{-y^2+81} = \frac{3y-27}{-(y^2-81)} = \frac{3(y-9)}{-(y-9)(y+9)} = -\frac{3}{y+9}$$

$$\frac{x^2-4x-32}{64-x^2}$$

$$\frac{4-x^2}{x^3-8} = \frac{-x^2+4}{x^3-8}$$

$$\frac{(x-8)(x+4)}{-(x^2-64)}$$

$$\frac{-x^2+4}{x^3-8}$$

$$\frac{(x-8)(x+4)}{-(x+8)(x-8)}$$

$$\frac{-(x^2-4)}{x^3-8}$$

$$-\frac{x+4}{x+8}$$

$$\frac{-(x-2)(x+2)}{(x-2)(x^2+2x+4)} = \frac{-(x+2)}{x^2+2x+4}$$

$$-\frac{3}{y+9}$$

What you will learn about:
 Multiplying and Dividing Rational Expressions

Multiply a rational expression
 Step 1 – Factor each numerator
 and denominator completely

Step 2 – Multiply the
 numerators and denominators

Step 3 – Simplify by dividing out
 common factors

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 28 \\ \underline{15} \\ 140 \\ \underline{280} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

Multiply:

$$\frac{10}{28} \cdot \frac{8}{15} = \frac{80}{420}$$

$$= \frac{8}{42}$$

$$= \frac{4}{21}$$

$$\frac{6}{10} \cdot \frac{15}{12} = \frac{90}{120}$$

$$= \frac{3}{4}$$

$$\frac{5}{\cancel{5}} \cdot \frac{\cancel{5}}{5} = 1$$

$$\frac{2x}{3y^2} \cdot \frac{6xy^3}{x^2y}$$

$$\frac{12x^2y^3}{3x^2y^3}$$

$$4$$

$$\frac{3pq}{q^2} \cdot \frac{5p^2q}{6pq}$$

$$\frac{15p^3q^2}{6p^2q^3}$$

$$\frac{5p}{2q}$$

$$\frac{6x^3y}{7x^2} \cdot \frac{2xy^3}{x^2y}$$

$$\frac{12x^4y^4}{7x^4y} = \frac{12y^3}{7}$$

$$\frac{2x}{x^2-7x+12} \cdot \frac{x^2-9}{6x^2}$$

$$\frac{5x}{x^2+5x+6} \cdot \frac{x^2-4}{10x}$$

$$\frac{n^2-7n}{n^2+2n+1} \cdot \frac{n+1}{2n}$$

$$\frac{x^2-25}{x^2-3x-10} \cdot \frac{x+2}{x}$$

$$\frac{16-4x}{2x-12} \cdot \frac{x^2-5x-6}{x^2-16}$$

$$\frac{12x-6x^2}{x^2+8x} \cdot \frac{x^2+11x+24}{x^2-4}$$

$$\frac{9v-3v^2}{9v+36} \cdot \frac{v^2+7v+12}{v^2-9}$$

$$\frac{3a-21}{a^2-9a+14} \cdot \frac{a^2-4}{3a+6}$$

$$\frac{b^2-b}{b^2+9b-10} \cdot \frac{b^2-100}{b^2-10b}$$