

Find  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{-5}{8}$

1) First you need a common denominator.

1a) Multiply  $\frac{1}{2}$  by  $\frac{4}{4}$  to get  $\frac{4}{8}$

2) Now you can complete the solution by replacing  $\frac{1}{2}$  with  $\frac{4}{8}$  and adding

$$\frac{4}{8} + \frac{-5}{8} = \frac{4 - 5}{8} = \frac{-1}{8}$$

3) In one line, it looks as shown below.

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{-5}{8} = \frac{1}{2} \times \left( \frac{4}{4} \right) + \frac{-5}{8} = \frac{4}{8} + \frac{-5}{8} = \frac{4 - 5}{8} = \frac{-1}{8}$$