

LESSON 9

Read about this PROVISIONAL EDITION in the front matter to this book.
Check the NFB website periodically for updates to this lesson.

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INTRODUCTION TO FRACTIONS

In a technical transcription, fractions are brailled in Nemeth Code. Two types of fractions are presented in this lesson: simple fractions (including mixed numbers) and complex fractions.

9.1 Recognition and Layout: A fraction is composed of three parts: a numerator, a denominator, and a fraction line.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{numerator} \\ \text{denominator} \end{array} \frac{3}{4} \quad \leftarrow \text{fraction line}$$

Fractions are printed in a variety of ways. The numerator may be printed above the denominator or they may be printed on the same level. The fraction line may be horizontal or diagonal. Here are three examples of the fraction "three fourths" printed in different styles.

$$\frac{3}{4} \quad 3/4 \quad 3/4$$

The numerator and/or denominator may also consist of or contain words or abbreviations. Here are examples.

m/s	("meters per second")
ft./sec.	("feet per second")
$\frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}}$	("rise over run ")
3.5%/year	("3.5 percent per year")

$$\gg \frac{d}{t} \quad \dots$$

Example 9.3-2 Rate formula: rate = $\frac{\text{distance}}{\text{time}}$ or $r = \frac{d}{t}$.

$$\dots$$

Reminder: Words in Nemeth Code are brailled without contractions.

Example 9.3-3 Slope formula: $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ or $m = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$.

$$\dots$$

The numerator and denominator are unspaced from the fraction indicators and from the fraction line. Spacing before and after a fraction is subject to the spacing rules for the signs preceding and following the fraction.

Example 9.3-4 Multiplying fractions is easy! $\frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3 \cdot 1}{4 \cdot 2} = \frac{3}{8}$

$$\dots$$

There is no space before or after the operation signs (multiplication dots); there is a space before and after the comparison signs (equals signs).

Example 9.3-5 Use the reciprocal of the coefficient to solve for x in $\frac{3}{8}x = 72$.

$$\dots$$

The coefficient (fraction) is unspaced from the variable (x).

Example 9.3-6 Anderson sprinted $\frac{2}{3}$ of the $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile track.

$$\dots$$

The fraction in this hyphenated expression is unspaced from the hyphen.

Instructions: Treat the second heading as a connected title heading. (See *Braille Formats*, Section 4, for details.) Transcribe the first series of fractions as a paragraph, starting in cell 3. Begin a new line in the runover cell (cell 1) if the entire fraction or ellipsis will not fit on what remains of the current line. A blank line must precede the itemized portion. When you proofread, check that you closed each fraction, that you returned to the baseline after each superscript, that displayed expressions are placed in the proper cell, and that you terminated Nemeth Code where appropriate. Watch for end-of-sentence punctuation.

PRACTICE 9A

Horizontal Simple Fraction Line

Simple fractions: $\frac{1}{2}$... $\frac{15}{16}$... $\frac{x}{y}$... $\frac{a+b}{c+d}$... $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$... $\frac{(x+y)}{(x-y)}$...

$$\frac{9}{12} \dots \left(\frac{3}{2}a + \frac{1}{2}b\right) \dots \frac{3x}{17y} \dots x - \frac{1}{4}(x - 2x)$$

1. $V = \frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h$

2. $\frac{a}{b} \times \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ac}{bd}$

3. $\left|\frac{a}{b}\right| = \frac{|a|}{|b|}$

4. Write an equation to show that $\frac{3}{4}$ of $\frac{1}{2}$ is $\frac{3}{8}$.

5. $x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{4x^2 - x - 2}{(x+1)(y+1)}$

6. Solve this differential equation:

$$x \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = e^{x^2}$$

7. The number π is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. That is,

$$\pi = \frac{\text{circumference}}{\text{diameter}}.$$

8. $\frac{35}{70} = \frac{x}{100}$

9. $\frac{12}{33} = \frac{m}{11}$

10. $\frac{x}{15} = \frac{12}{75}$

11. $\frac{4}{32} = \frac{10.5}{x}$

12. $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$

Instructions: Determine the formatting before beginning your transcription. Where does each paragraph begin? Which expressions are embedded and which are displayed? What is the proper cell placement for the displayed expressions?

PRACTICE 9E

These are simple fractions:

$$\frac{1}{2} \quad \frac{a^2}{b^2} \quad \frac{y^{\frac{1}{2}}}{y^{\frac{1}{4}}}$$

This is not a simple fraction: $\frac{1/3}{2/3}$

Review the rules in 8.11.5 regarding an ellipsis on the baseline of writing when it follows a superscript.

$$x^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad \dots \quad x^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot y^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad \dots \quad \frac{x^{\frac{1}{2}} + 1}{y^{\frac{1}{2}} - 1}$$

Plot the points $(-\frac{1}{2}, 4)$, $(3, 4\frac{1}{4})$, and $(-9, \frac{3}{4})$. Then express $\frac{a^{3/4}}{b^{5/4}}$ in radical form.

LINKED EXPRESSIONS

9.21 Definition of Linked Expression: A linked expression contains *at least one sign of comparison*. The part preceding the first sign of comparison is called the *anchor*. Each remaining part, beginning with a sign of comparison and ending before the next sign of comparison, is called a *link*.

Here are two examples of linked expressions.

$$12.5\% > \frac{1}{10} \quad \text{The anchor is } 12.5\% \text{ and the link is } > \frac{1}{10}$$

$$6 \times 245 = (6 \times 200) + (6 \times 40) + (6 \times 5) = 1200 + 240 + 30 = 1470$$

The anchor is 6×245 , followed by three links each beginning with an equals sign.

9.22 Division of Linked Expressions: Recall that a mathematical expression must not be divided between lines if it will fit on one braille line within the current margins. If a *linked expression* is too long to fit on one line, the expression continues on the next line, beginning with a sign of comparison. If the expression contains more than one link, use as much of the line as possible before dividing the expression. It is not necessary to divide at every comparison sign. Begin the new line in the runover cell of the current format.

Example 9.22-1

1. Break the problem down into parts. Can you use mental math?

$$6 \times 245 = (6 \times 200) + (6 \times 40) + (6 \times 5) = 1200 + 240 + 30 = 1470$$

The anchor starts in cell 5, displayed to itemized text. The first link fits on the same line. The second link starts on a new line in cell 7, the runover cell in this displayed format.

Example 9.22-2 How many hours? $\frac{3}{8}$ of a day + $\frac{1}{2}$ of a day = ___ hours.
 (*Hint:* A day is 24 hours.)

This is a narrative paragraph (3-1) with an embedded equation. The opening switch indicator will fit on the line with the anchor, in the runover position, cell 1. The link begins on the next line with its comparison sign.

To factor $ab + c^2 + ac + bc$, the terms can be grouped in pairs with a common factor.

$$\begin{aligned} ab + c^2 + ac + bc &= (ab + ac) + (bc + c^2) \\ &= a(b + c) + c(b + c) \\ &= (a + c)(b + c) . \end{aligned}$$

In print it is common for the last line of the expression to contain more than one link. As long as the other conditions are met, this layout is still considered to meet the "special" requirements.

We can reduce $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ to lowest terms in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} 12\frac{1}{2}\% &= 12.5\% \\ &= .125 \\ &= \frac{125}{1000} = \frac{1}{8} \end{aligned}$$

Using the same example only with a different print layout, this does not meet the requirements for a linked expression requiring special margins because there is more than one link on the first line of the displayed expression. (Violation of the third bullet.)

We can reduce $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ to lowest terms in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} 12\frac{1}{2}\% &= 12.5\% = .125 \\ &= \frac{125}{1000} = \frac{1}{8} \end{aligned}$$

Using a similar example, the next layout does not meet the requirements for a linked expression requiring special margins because the expression is not displayed. (Violation of the first bullet.)

$$\begin{aligned} 1. \ 12\frac{1}{2}\% &= 12.5\% \\ &= .125 \\ &= \frac{125}{1000} = \frac{1}{8} \end{aligned}$$

If the print layout meets the requirements for a linked expression requiring special margins, one of the following braille formats is applied.

Instructions: Treat "MULTIPLYING MIXED NUMBERS" as a centered heading.

PRACTICE 9I

Special Linked Expressions

To test the equation $R_t = \frac{R}{n}$, use four 1000- Ω resistors wired in series to predict a total resistance of 250 Ω .

$$R_t = \frac{R}{n} = \frac{1000 \Omega}{4}$$

$$\frac{1000 \Omega}{4} = 250 \Omega$$

Then, by using the resistance theory equation

$$\frac{1}{R_t} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{R_n},$$

plug the 150- Ω and 1000- Ω resistors into the equation as R_1 and R_2 .

$$\frac{1}{R_t} = \frac{1}{150 \Omega} + \frac{1}{1000 \Omega}$$

$$= 0.007 + 0.001$$

$$= 0.008$$

$$R_t = \frac{1}{0.008} = 125 \Omega$$

MULTIPLYING MIXED NUMBERS

A. Explain each step in the solution to this multiplication problem.

$$2\frac{1}{2} \cdot 1\frac{1}{4} = \left(2 + \frac{1}{2}\right) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{4}\right)$$

$$= 2 + \frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{8}$$

$$= 2 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{8}$$

$$= 2 + 1 + \frac{1}{8} = 3\frac{1}{8}$$

<i>For further practice, see Appendix A—Reading Practice.</i>

ANSWERS TO PRACTICE MATERIAL

1. $2x^2 + 3x - 4$
2. $5x^3 - 2x^2 + 7x - 1$
3. $4x^2 - 9$
4. $3x^2 + 8x - 5$
5. $2x^3 - 5x^2 + 3x - 7$
6. $6x^2 - 12x + 8$
7. $3x^3 - 2x^2 + 5x - 1$
8. $4x^2 - 16$
9. $5x^3 - 3x^2 + 7x - 2$
10. $2x^2 - 9$
11. $3x^3 - 5x^2 + 4x - 6$
12. $7x^2 - 14x + 9$
13. $4x^3 - 2x^2 + 6x - 3$
14. $5x^2 - 20x + 15$
15. $3x^3 - 7x^2 + 5x - 4$
16. $6x^2 - 18x + 12$
17. $2x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x - 1$
18. $4x^2 - 16$
19. $5x^3 - 3x^2 + 7x - 2$
20. $3x^2 - 12x + 9$
21. $2x^3 - 5x^2 + 3x - 7$
22. $7x^2 - 14x + 7$
23. $4x^3 - 2x^2 + 6x - 3$
24. $5x^2 - 20x + 15$
25. $3x^3 - 7x^2 + 5x - 4$
26. $6x^2 - 18x + 12$
27. $2x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x - 1$
28. $4x^2 - 16$
29. $5x^3 - 3x^2 + 7x - 2$
30. $3x^2 - 12x + 9$
31. $2x^3 - 5x^2 + 3x - 7$
32. $7x^2 - 14x + 7$
33. $4x^3 - 2x^2 + 6x - 3$
34. $5x^2 - 20x + 15$
35. $3x^3 - 7x^2 + 5x - 4$
36. $6x^2 - 18x + 12$
37. $2x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x - 1$
38. $4x^2 - 16$
39. $5x^3 - 3x^2 + 7x - 2$
40. $3x^2 - 12x + 9$
41. $2x^3 - 5x^2 + 3x - 7$
42. $7x^2 - 14x + 7$
43. $4x^3 - 2x^2 + 6x - 3$
44. $5x^2 - 20x + 15$
45. $3x^3 - 7x^2 + 5x - 4$
46. $6x^2 - 18x + 12$
47. $2x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x - 1$
48. $4x^2 - 16$
49. $5x^3 - 3x^2 + 7x - 2$
50. $3x^2 - 12x + 9$
51. $2x^3 - 5x^2 + 3x - 7$
52. $7x^2 - 14x + 7$
53. $4x^3 - 2x^2 + 6x - 3$
54. $5x^2 - 20x + 15$
55. $3x^3 - 7x^2 + 5x - 4$
56. $6x^2 - 18x + 12$
57. $2x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x - 1$
58. $4x^2 - 16$
59. $5x^3 - 3x^2 + 7x - 2$
60. $3x^2 - 12x + 9$
61. $2x^3 - 5x^2 + 3x - 7$
62. $7x^2 - 14x + 7$
63. $4x^3 - 2x^2 + 6x - 3$
64. $5x^2 - 20x + 15$
65. $3x^3 - 7x^2 + 5x - 4$
66. $6x^2 - 18x + 12$
67. $2x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x - 1$
68. $4x^2 - 16$
69. $5x^3 - 3x^2 + 7x - 2$
70. $3x^2 - 12x + 9$
71. $2x^3 - 5x^2 + 3x - 7$
72. $7x^2 - 14x + 7$
73. $4x^3 - 2x^2 + 6x - 3$
74. $5x^2 - 20x + 15$
75. $3x^3 - 7x^2 + 5x - 4$
76. $6x^2 - 18x + 12$
77. $2x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x - 1$
78. $4x^2 - 16$
79. $5x^3 - 3x^2 + 7x - 2$
80. $3x^2 - 12x + 9$
81. $2x^3 - 5x^2 + 3x - 7$
82. $7x^2 - 14x + 7$
83. $4x^3 - 2x^2 + 6x - 3$
84. $5x^2 - 20x + 15$
85. $3x^3 - 7x^2 + 5x - 4$
86. $6x^2 - 18x + 12$
87. $2x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x - 1$
88. $4x^2 - 16$
89. $5x^3 - 3x^2 + 7x - 2$
90. $3x^2 - 12x + 9$
91. $2x^3 - 5x^2 + 3x - 7$
92. $7x^2 - 14x + 7$
93. $4x^3 - 2x^2 + 6x - 3$
94. $5x^2 - 20x + 15$
95. $3x^3 - 7x^2 + 5x - 4$
96. $6x^2 - 18x + 12$
97. $2x^3 - 4x^2 + 3x - 1$
98. $4x^2 - 16$
99. $5x^3 - 3x^2 + 7x - 2$
100. $3x^2 - 12x + 9$

EXERCISE 9

Exercise 9 will be available when this course is finished being written and is no longer "Provisional".

Proceed to Lesson 10.