

**Skill description:** Simplifying algebraic fractions that contain common variables and numerical factors.







## STRATEGIES TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS

When simplifying algebraic fractions, look for common numerical factors and common variables in the numerator and denominator.

#### Example 1

Simplify the following algebraic fraction.

4ac 12bc

#### Step 1

Choose the highest common factor of both the numerator and denominator; in this example it is 4. Simplify by dividing both the numerator and denominator by 4.



When a numerical value simplifies to 1, we don't write the value 1 unless it is the only term left as the numerator.

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Step 2

Look for common variables in the numerator and denominator. In this example, the variable C is common. These cancel out.



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Example 2

Simplify the following algebraic fraction.

# $\frac{18xy}{36xyz}$

### Step 1

Choose the highest common factor of the numerator and denominator; in this example, it is 18. Simplify by dividing both the numerator and denominator by 18.



When a numerical value simplifies to 1, we don't write the value 1 unless it is the only term left as the numerator.

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Step 2

Look for common variables in the numerator and denominator. In this example, the variables x and y are common, and these cancel out.



As both variables in the numerator have cancelled out, we need to leave 1 in the numerator.



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Solutions to Essential Revision		
$1.\frac{1}{2}$	$2 \cdot \frac{3x}{2}$	
$\begin{cases} 2 \\ 2 \\ 11 \end{cases}$	xy	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
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$\{5. 4^{\pm}, 4^{$	$6.\frac{a}{b+}$	- 1
$\frac{1}{2}$ 7. $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{8}{2x}$	+y
$9$ $\frac{14}{14}$	$10 \cdot \frac{5x}{5}$	$+\underline{y}$
		-b
<pre></pre>	$\frac{12.}{b}$	
Solutions to Questions		
$\sum_{x} x^{x}$	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
		~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
$\frac{3.\frac{7\pi}{5}}{5}$	$4. \frac{3}{2}$	
$\{5. \frac{3}{2n}\}$	$\{6. \frac{1}{57}\}$	
$\frac{2p}{7}$	$\langle \mathbf{x} \rangle = \frac{3Z}{2Z}$	
\$ 		~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
$9.\frac{-}{2y}$	$\frac{10}{9y}$	
$\frac{11}{d}$	$\frac{11}{3}$	<u>f</u>
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