A guide for grown-ups

Readiness

Learners should count to four, notice equal and unequal shares, and understand that the whole must be the same size before comparing fractions.

Say the whole first

Ask: What is the whole? Then count equal parts. The bottom number tells how many equal parts make the whole.

Keep it fair

Parts must have equal area. A shape cut into four unequal pieces does not show quarters.

Keep sessions short

Try one model and one practice page in ten to fifteen minutes. Ask the learner to explain, not only name.

Paper sizes

A4 and US Letter editions contain the same 32 pages. Print one matching edition at actual size.

Worked example

A whole rectangle is divided into four equal parts.

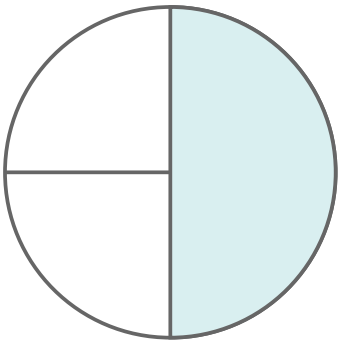


3 shaded equal parts out of 4 total equal parts = 3/4

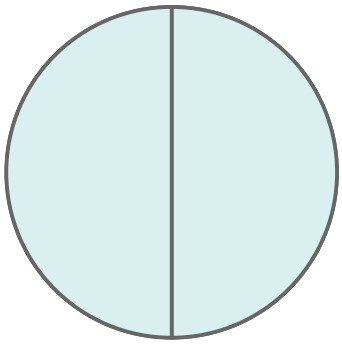
Check: all four pieces are equal. The whole stays the same size. The unshaded part is 1/4, so 3/4 + 1/4 = 4/4 = 1 whole.

01 Circle halves

Split two circles into two equal shares.



one half



two halves / one whole

One of two equal parts is one half. Two halves make one whole.

Write one fraction word or number for each picture:

Harder extension: explain how equal parts help the fraction name stay fair.

Worked answers

Activities 1-2

01 Circle halves: left 1/2; right 2/2 = 1 whole. 02 Rectangle halves: left 1/2; right 2/2 = 1 whole.

Practice pages: drawings may vary. Confirm the whole is named, parts are equal, and the written fraction matches the picture.

A correct explanation matters more than perfect drawing.