How to SIMPLIFY FRACTIONS. We MUST divide the top and bottom by the same number.

**2 OPTIONS:**

OPTION 1 - - - Will the ***top*** fit into the ***bottom***? (Will the ***numerator*** fit into the ***denominator***?) If the answer is yes, then use the top number as the divisor.

**Example 1:** 3/6 Will the top fit into the bottom? YES! 3 fits into 6! So we will divide both the numerator and the denominator by 3.

3 divided by 3 = 1

6 divided by 3 = 2

That makes our simplified fraction 1/2

**Example 2:** 4/12 Will the top fit into the bottom? YES! 4 will fit into 12. So, we will divide both the numerator and the denominator by 4.

4 divided by 4 = 1

12 divided by 4 = 3

That makes our simplified fraction 1/3

OPTION 2 - - - Use this option if the top will not fit into the bottom. What is the biggest number that will fit into both the numerator and the denominator? That number will be our divisor.

**Example 1:** 6/9 The top WILL NOT fit into the bottom. SOOOO, what is the biggest number that will fit into both the numerator and the denominator? (Say 3!)

That’s right! It’s 3! You’re so smart! 3 will be our divisor.

6 divided by 3 = 2

9 divided by 3 = 3

That makes our simplified fraction 2/3.

Example 2: 8/10 The top WILL NOT fit into the bottom. What is the biggest number that will fit into both? 2 is the biggest number that fits into both. So 2 is our divisor.

8 divided by 2 = 4

10 divided by 2 = 5

That makes our simplified fraction 4/5