

# Simplifying Complex Fractions

①  $\frac{25 \cdot 15}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 2 - \frac{4}{15} \cdot 15}$   $CD: 15$   $\frac{375}{6-4}$   
 $\frac{375}{2}$  or 187.5

②  $\frac{9}{4} - \frac{4}{3}$   $CD: 36$   $\frac{81-48}{324}$   $\frac{33}{324}$   
 $9 \cdot 36$   $\frac{11}{108}$  *\*reduce!*

③  $\frac{2}{a} \cdot 3a$   $CD: 3a$   $\frac{6}{12+a}$   
 $3a \cdot \frac{4}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \cdot 3a$

④  $\frac{16}{u^2} - \frac{4u}{3}$   $CD: 3u^2$   $\frac{48-4u^3}{3u^3}$   
 $34 \cdot \frac{16}{u^2} - \frac{4u \cdot 3u^2}{3}$

⑤  $\frac{6}{m} - \frac{3}{2}$   $CD: 16m$   $\frac{96-24m}{m^2}$   
 $\frac{m}{16} \cdot 16m$

⑥  $\frac{x-5}{6} + \frac{1}{4}$   $CD: 16x$   $\frac{x^2-5x+4x}{16}$   
 $\frac{1}{x} \cdot 16x$   $\frac{x^2-x}{16}$

⑦  $\frac{u}{4} - \frac{1}{9}$   $CD: 20(3u-5)$   $\frac{15u^2-25u-12u+20}{12u-20-80}$   
 $\frac{1}{5} - \frac{4}{(3u-5)}$   $CD: 20(3u-5)$

$\frac{5u(3u-5) - 4(3u-5)}{4(3u-5) - 4(20)}$  *\*now distribute & combine like terms*  
 $\frac{15u^2-37u+20}{12u-100}$

⑧  $\frac{1}{u} - \frac{2u}{3}$   $CD: 12u$   $\frac{12-8u^2}{6u^2+27u}$   
 $\frac{u}{2} + \frac{9}{4}$

*\*you can factor but nothing will cancel so you don't have to factor*  
 $\frac{4(3-2u^2)}{3u(2u+9)}$

⑨  $\frac{4}{a+5} - \frac{a}{6}$   $CD: 6(a+5)$   $\frac{64-a(a+5)}{(a+5)(a+5) - 6(a+5)}$   
 $\frac{4}{a+5} - \frac{3}{8}$   $CD: 8(a+5)$

*\*now distribute & combine like terms*

$\frac{64-a^2-5a}{a^2+10a+25-6a-30}$

$\frac{64-a^2-5a}{a^2+4a-5}$  *\*you can factor but nothing cancels so you don't have to*  
 $\frac{64-a^2-5a}{(a-5)(a+1)}$

$$\textcircled{10} \frac{\frac{3}{4n} + \frac{m^2}{16}}{\frac{2}{m^2} - \frac{9}{m^2}} \quad \text{CD: } 16m^2 \quad \frac{48m + m^4}{32 - 144}$$

$$\frac{48m + m^4}{-112}$$

$$\textcircled{11} \frac{\frac{x-6}{9} + \frac{x+1}{9}}{\frac{3}{x+1} - \frac{x^2-3}{9}} \quad \text{CD: } 9x(x+1)$$

$$\frac{9(x+1)(x-6) + (x+1)(x)(x+1)}{9x(3) - (x^2)(3x)(x+1)}$$

Now begin to distribute & combine like terms

$$\frac{9(x^2 - 5x - 6) + x(x^2 + 2x + 1)}{27x - 3x^3(x+1)}$$

$$\frac{9x^2 - 45x - 54 + x^3 + 2x^2 + x}{27x - 3x^4 \rightarrow 3x^3}$$

$$\frac{x^3 + 11x^2 - 44x - 54}{-3x^4 - 3x^3 + 27x}$$

$$\textcircled{12} \frac{\frac{4}{a} + \frac{a+b}{a+3}}{\frac{a^2}{a+3} - \frac{a}{4b}} \quad \text{CD: } 16a(a+3)$$

$$\frac{4(16)(a+3) + 16a(a+b)}{(16a)(a^2) - a(a)(a+3)}$$

Now begin to distribute & combine like terms

$$\frac{64a + 192 + 16a^2 + 96a}{16a^3 - a^3 - 3a^2}$$

$$\frac{16a^2 + 160a + 192}{15a^3 - 3a^2}$$