

Carla's Way

To solve $\frac{4}{5} + \frac{3}{20}$, Carla looks at the denominators and thinks about their multiples until she finds a common one. The *Multiplication and Division Facts* chart in the *Student Guide* Reference section helps. If she can't find a common multiple, she just multiplies the denominators together to find one like Chris does.

$$\frac{4}{5} + \frac{3}{20}$$

Sometimes I take a shortcut. I look at the denominators and see if $5 \times$ some number equals 20. I know that $5 \times 4 = 20$, so the common denominator is 20.



Multiples of 5: 5, 10, 15, **20**, 25, 30 . . .

Multiples of 20: **20**, 40, 60, 80 . . .

The common multiple is 20.

Carla needs to rename $\frac{4}{5}$ so that it has a common denominator of 20. She multiplies 5×4 to get 20, so she also multiplies the numerator by 4 and finds an equivalent fraction.

$$\frac{4 \times 4}{5 \times 4} = \frac{16}{20}$$

Now she is able to add twentieths: $\frac{16}{20} + \frac{3}{20} = \frac{19}{20}$.

- 12.** Find common denominators and equivalent fractions Carla's way to solve the problems. You can check your work with fraction circle pieces.

A. $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{3}{10}$ Number sentence _____

B. $\frac{5}{12} + \frac{2}{3}$ Number sentence _____

C. $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{8}$ Number sentence _____