

How to

simplify

Fractions

**Whatever you do to the bottom,
you do to the top!**

OR

**Whatever you do to the top,
you do to the bottom!**

Using the same method as we used for creating equivalent fractions, divide the numerator and denominator by the same number, but use the largest number possible.

The diagram illustrates the simplification of the fraction $\frac{12}{16}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$. On the left, the fraction $\frac{12}{16}$ is shown with a horizontal line between the numerator 12 and the denominator 16. On the right, the simplified fraction $\frac{3}{4}$ is shown with a horizontal line between the numerator 3 and the denominator 4. Two blue curved arrows connect the two fractions. The top arrow points from the original fraction to the simplified one and is labeled with $\div 4$. The bottom arrow points from the simplified fraction back to the original one and is also labeled with $\div 4$.