Understanding and Comparing Fractions - Self-Paced Notes

Understanding Fractions

A fraction represents a part of a whole. It has two parts:

- Numerator - the top number (tells how many parts you have)

- Denominator - the bottom number (tells how many equal parts the whole is divided into)

Types of Fractions:

- Proper Fraction - numerator < denominator (e.g., 2/5)

- Improper Fraction - numerator > denominator (e.g., 7/4)

- Mixed Number - whole number + proper fraction (e.g., 1 3/4)

Comparing Fractions:

- Same denominator: Compare numerators directly

- Different denominators: Convert to same denominator or use cross-multiplication

Example:

Is 3/4 greater than 2/3?

Cross-multiply: 3×3 = 9, 4×2 = 8 -> So 3/4 is greater.