

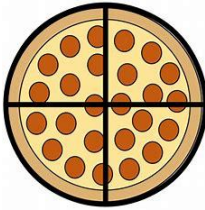
Understanding Fractions: Parts of a Whole

Fractions are a way to represent parts of a whole. Imagine you have a delicious pizza. If you want to share it with your friends, you need to divide it into equal parts. Each part of the pizza can be written as a fraction.

What is a Fraction?

A fraction is made up of two numbers: the **numerator** and the **denominator**. The numerator tells you how many parts you have, and the denominator tells you how many parts the whole is divided into.

For example, if you divide a pizza into 4 equal parts and eat one slice, you've eaten $\frac{1}{4}$ (one-fourth) of the pizza. Here, **1** is the numerator (how many parts you have), and **4** is the denominator (how many equal parts the pizza is divided into).



In this picture, the pizza is divided into 4 equal parts. If you eat one slice, you have eaten $\frac{1}{4}$ of the pizza.

Why are Fractions Important?

Fractions help us understand parts of a whole. Whether you're sharing food, dividing a cake, or measuring ingredients for a recipe, fractions help us know exactly how much we have.

Simple Fractions You Should Know:

- **$\frac{1}{2}$ (one-half):** If you divide something into two equal parts, each part is $\frac{1}{2}$.
- **$\frac{1}{3}$ (one-third):** If you divide something into three equal parts, each part is $\frac{1}{3}$.
- **$\frac{1}{4}$ (one-fourth):** If you divide something into four equal parts, each part is $\frac{1}{4}$.

These simple fractions will help you in many real-life situations, like cutting a pie or dividing a group of toys with your friends!

References:

- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. (2014). "Understanding Fractions."
- Math Is Fun. (n.d.). "Fractions." Retrieved from <https://www.mathsisfun.com/fractions.html>.