Simplest Form ~ Use the strategies below to determine if a fraction is in simplest form and how to simplify the fraction (if needed).

Simplifying Fractions

STRATEGY: *Check and Decide*

1. **Are the numerator and denominator both even?**

   NO ➜ Go to the next question.
   YES ➜ Divide both by 2 (may need to repeat).

2. **Is the denominator a multiple of the numerator?**

   NO ➜ Go to the next question.
   YES ➜ Divide both by the numerator.

3. **Is the numerator half of the denominator?**

   NO ➜ The fraction is in simplest form.
   YES ➜ Reduce the fraction 1/2.

4. **If the fraction a unit fraction, it's in simplest form.**

   1/2   1/3   1/4   1/5   1/6   1/7   1/8   1/9   1/10

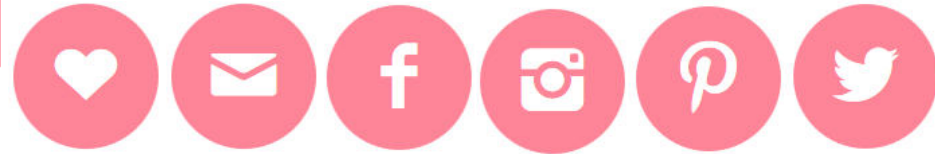5. **If the numerator "one away" from the denominator, the fraction is in simplest form.**

   1/2 2/3 3/4 5/6 6/7 7/8 8/9 10/11 11/12

   Need to Know…
   - Even and odd numbers
   - Multiples
   - Recognize numbers that are half or doubles
   - Definition of a unit fraction
   - Reduce to lowest terms = simplifying a fraction
   - When a number is "one away" from another

THANK YOU!

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