

Algebra 2                      8.1  
Simplify rational expressions  
Simplify complex fractions

rational  
simplify (a fraction)  
GCF

Is it ever OK to divide by zero?

→ complex fraction  
whiteboards



Answer when undefined only if they ask (for now...)

• **Guided Practice**

Simplify each expression.

$$3A. \frac{(xz - 4z)}{z^2(4 - x)} \frac{\cancel{z}(\cancel{x-4})}{\cancel{z}(-1)(\cancel{x-4})} = \frac{1}{-z} = -\frac{1}{z} = -\frac{1}{z}$$

$$4c. \frac{16mt^2}{21a^4b^3} \cdot \frac{24m^3}{7a^2b^2}$$

~~7772~~

$$\frac{16mt^2}{21a^4b^3} \cdot \frac{24m^3}{7a^2b^2}$$

$$\frac{21 \cancel{a} \cancel{a} \cancel{a} \cancel{b} \cancel{b}}{3 \cancel{7}} \cdot \frac{24 \cancel{m} \cancel{m} \cancel{m}}{\cancel{7} \cancel{7} \cancel{3}}$$

$$\frac{2t^2}{9a^2bm^2}$$

$$4d. \frac{12x^4y^2}{40a^4b^4} \div \frac{6x^2y^4}{16a^2x}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -8 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline -16 \end{array}$$

**Example 5** Polynomials in the Numerator and Denominator

Simplify each expression.

a.  $\frac{x^2 - 6x - 16}{x^2 - 16x + 64} \cdot \frac{x - 8}{x^2 + 5x + 6} =$

$$\frac{\cancel{(x-8)}(x+2)\cancel{(x-8)}}{\cancel{(x-8)}\cancel{(x-8)}(x+2)(x+3)} = \frac{1}{x+3}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 64 \\ \times -8 \\ \hline -512 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline 18 \end{array}$$

$$0. \frac{x^2 - 16}{12y + 36} \cdot \frac{x^2 - 12x + 32}{y^2 - 3y - 18}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -18 \\ -6 \times 3 \\ -3 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{(x^2 - 16)}{12y + 36} \cdot \frac{y^2 - 3y - 18}{x^2 - 12x + 32}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 32 \\ -8 \times -4 \\ -12 \end{array}$$

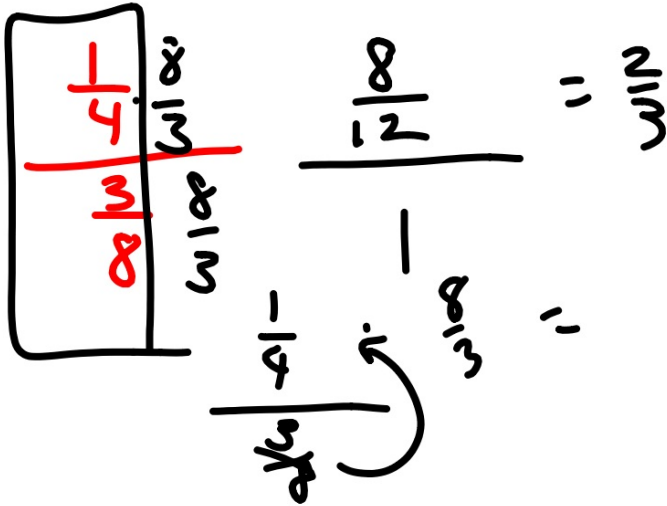
$$\frac{(x-4)(x+4)}{12(y+3)} \cdot \frac{(y-6)(y+3)}{(x-8)(x-4)}$$

### Guided Practice

5A.  $\frac{8x - 20}{x^2 + 2x - 35} \cdot \frac{x^2 - 7x + 10}{4x^2 - 16}$

5B.  $\frac{x^2 - 9x + 20}{x^2 + 10x + 21} \div \frac{x^2 - x - 12}{6x + 42}$

$$1/4 \div 3/8$$



Isn't this just code for division?  
"Complex fraction"

Multiply by recip (why does that work?)

### Example 6 Simplify Complex Fractions

Simplify each expression.

$$a. \frac{\left(\frac{a+b}{4}\right)}{\left(\frac{a^2+b^2}{4}\right)}$$

$$\frac{(a+b)}{4} \div \frac{(a^2+b^2)}{4}$$

$$\frac{a+b}{4} \cdot \frac{4}{a^2+b^2}$$

$$= \frac{\cancel{a+b}}{\cancel{a^2+b^2}}$$

$$\frac{\cancel{a} \cancel{b}}{\cancel{a^2} \cancel{b^2}} = \frac{1}{ab}$$

$$= \frac{ab}{a^2+b^2}$$

$$a^2 - b^2$$

$$b. \left( \frac{\frac{x^2}{x^2 - y^2}}{\frac{4x}{y - x}} \right) = \frac{x^2}{x^2 - y^2} \cdot \frac{(y - x)}{4x}$$

$$= \frac{\cancel{x} \cdot \cancel{x} \cdot \overbrace{(-1)(-y+x)}^{-1(x+y)}}{(x+y)\cancel{(x-y)}\cancel{4x}} = \frac{-1x}{4(x+y)} = -\frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{x}{x+y}$$

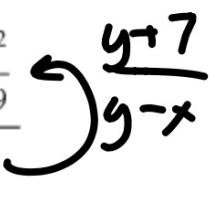
$$\frac{x}{-4(x+y)}$$

## Guided Practice

Simplify each expression.

6A. 
$$\frac{\frac{(x-2)^2}{2(x^2-5x+4)}}{\frac{x^2-4}{4x-10}}$$

6B.  $\frac{\frac{x^2 - y^2}{y^2 - 49}}{\frac{y - x}{y + 7}}$



$\frac{y+7}{y-x}$

---

8.1 WB pr. odd +22