

Answers to Practice Exercises for Chapter 12 – The Four Rules for Mixed Numbers

Set A - Question 18

Working

$$\begin{aligned} & 1\frac{7}{20} \div 1\frac{4}{5} \\ = & \frac{27}{20} \div \frac{9}{5} \\ = & \frac{27}{20} \times \frac{5}{9} \\ = & \frac{273}{204} \times \frac{15}{19} \\ = & \frac{3}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Comment

Change into improper fractions.

Change $\div \frac{9}{5}$ into $\times \frac{5}{9}$

Cancel out common factors of 9 and 5.

Multiply the numerators, multiply the denominators.

The answer is a proper fraction so there is no need to change to a mixed number.

Note: if you do not cancel out the common factors, you will get $\frac{135}{180}$ which must then be reduced to its lowest terms by dividing out a common factor of 45 (probably in two steps of 5 and 9) to get $\frac{3}{4}$.