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

## Set A - Question 7

| Working | | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| | $5\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{4}$ | Subtract the integers and subtract the fractions. The lowest common multiple of 2 and 4 is 4, so this will be the common denominator. |
| = | $4 + \frac{2}{4} - \frac{1}{4}$ | Subtract the fraction numerators. |
| = | $4\frac{1}{4}$ | |

Note: Because mixed numbers are actually little addition sums, $5\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{4} = 5 + \frac{1}{2} - (1 + \frac{1}{4})$. Everything inside the bracket is negative. So, when the expression is rearranged to combine the integers and fractions, it becomes $5 - 1 + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4}$.