

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

Set A - Question 9

Working

$$10\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{3}{5}$$

$$= 7\frac{5}{10} - \frac{6}{10}$$

$$= 6\frac{10}{10} + \frac{5}{10} - \frac{6}{10}$$

$$= 6\frac{9}{10}$$

Comment

Subtract the integers and subtract the fractions. The lowest common multiple of 2 and 5 is 10, so this will be the common denominator.

Subtract the fraction numerators. This will give a negative answer, so take 1 from the integers, leaving 6, and add $\frac{10}{10}$ to the fractions

Now $10 + 5 - 6$ gives a positive numerator: 9

Note: Because mixed numbers are actually little addition sums, $10\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{3}{5} = 10 + \frac{1}{2} - (3 + \frac{3}{5})$. Everything inside the bracket is negative. So, when the expression is rearranged to combine the integers and fractions, it becomes $10 - 3 + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{5}$.