

Complex fractions are fractions with fractions inside them.

Example 1 – Simplify  $\frac{2/5}{4/25}$

Step 1- Simplify the numerator into one fraction

This is already done.

Step 2- Simplify the denominator into one fraction

This is also complete.

Step 3-Multiply the **numerator** and the **reciprocal of the denominator** (remember that a fraction bar is a big division [  $\div$  ] symbol)

$$\frac{2/5}{4/25} = \frac{2}{5} \div \frac{4}{25} = \frac{2}{5} \cdot \frac{25}{4} = \frac{5}{2}$$

$$\frac{5}{2}$$

Example 2 – Simplify  $\frac{\frac{1}{m} + \frac{1}{m^2}}{\frac{2}{m} + \frac{2}{m^2}}$

Step 1- Simplify the numerator into one fraction

$$\frac{1}{m} + \frac{1}{m^2} = \frac{1}{m} \cdot \frac{m}{m} + \frac{1}{m^2} = \frac{m}{m^2} + \frac{1}{m^2} = \frac{m+1}{m^2}$$

Step 2- Simplify the denominator into one fraction

$$\frac{2}{m} + \frac{2}{m^2} = \frac{2}{m} \cdot \frac{m}{m} + \frac{2}{m^2} = \frac{2m}{m^2} + \frac{2}{m^2} = \frac{2m+2}{m^2}$$

Step 3-Multiply the **numerator** and the **reciprocal of the denominator** (remember that a fraction bar is a big division [ ÷ ] symbol)

$$\frac{\frac{m+1}{m^2}}{\frac{2m+2}{m^2}} = \frac{m+1}{m^2} \div \frac{2m+2}{m^2} = \frac{m+1}{m^2} \cdot \frac{m^2}{2m+2}$$

$$\frac{m+1}{m^2} \cdot \frac{m^2}{2m+2} = \frac{m+1}{m^2} \cdot \frac{m^2}{2(m+1)} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Example 3 – Simplify  $\frac{\frac{2}{x^2y} + \frac{1}{xy^2}}{\frac{3}{x^2y} - \frac{2}{xy^2}}$

Step 1- Simplify the numerator into one fraction

$$\frac{2}{x^2y} + \frac{1}{xy^2} = \frac{2}{x^2y} \cdot \frac{y}{y} + \frac{1}{xy^2} \cdot \frac{x}{x} = \frac{2y}{x^2y^2} + \frac{x}{x^2y^2} = \frac{2y+x}{x^2y^2}$$

Step 2- Simplify the denominator into one fraction

$$\frac{3}{x^2y} - \frac{2}{xy^2} = \frac{3}{x^2y} \cdot \frac{y}{y} - \frac{2}{xy^2} \cdot \frac{x}{x} = \frac{3y}{x^2y^2} - \frac{2x}{x^2y^2} = \frac{3y-2x}{x^2y^2}$$

Step 3-Multiply the **numerator** and the **reciprocal of the denominator** (remember that a fraction bar is a big division [ ÷ ] symbol)

$$\frac{\frac{2y+x}{x^2y^2}}{\frac{3y-2x}{x^2y^2}} = \frac{2y+x}{x^2y^2} \div \frac{3y-2x}{x^2y^2} = \frac{2y+x}{x^2y^2} \cdot \frac{x^2y^2}{3y-2x}$$

$$\frac{2y+x}{x^2y^2} \cdot \frac{x^2y^2}{3y-2x} = \frac{2y+x}{3y-2x}$$

$$\frac{2y+x}{3y-2x}$$