Reducing Fractions

by Kathleen Wiley

Reducing fractions is an easy thing for you,
Just pick a number that you can divide into
The denominator and the numerator too,
And you will find reducing fractions fun to do!!

The quickest way to do it is to take the numerator,
And see if it goes evenly into the denominator
If it does, write that number below the line,
And if the numerator goes into itself one time

But if that won't work, here's what you do,
Pick the biggest number that divides evenly into
The denominator and the numerator too,
And you will find reducing fractions fun to do

The first one we'll do is 4/12, so take a look and then you must decide for yourself
What's the biggest number that goes into 12 and 4? Yes, 2 but 4 is our best score.
So 4 into 4 goes once you see and 4 into 12...you know is 3.
So once 4/12 is now 1/3...and you'll fly through reducing fractions easy as a bird.

The next one we'll do is 8/16. Just take a minute and you must decide what you think
What's the biggest number that goes into 16 and 8? Yes...2...yes 4...but 8 is great
Yes 8 into 8 goes just one time, and 8 into 16 goes just twice
So once 8/16...now 1/2...and don't you find that you are now enjoying your math?

But before we end this little song, what if one just comes out wrong?
Sometimes a fraction won't reduce...you can try all day...but it's no use

So let's look at one called 8/15. Just take a minute and you must decide what you think
Does 2 go....or 3....or 4...or 5....? No none will go, so rest your mind.

It's trial and error and it takes time, but you can tell you like it just fine
When everything seems fun to do, that's a sign YOU'RE fine and math is too!!

'Cause reducing fractions is an easy thing to do
Just pick a number that you can divide into
The denominator and the numerator too
And you will find reducing fractions fun to do!

Funtime Learning, Inc. © 2002
www.funtimelearning.com