

Structure of a Fraction

A quartet of sailboats is playing in the wind. Three-fourths of them are yellow and one-fourth is red.

Numerators count the unit fractions being described. They tell us which part of the collection corresponds with each specific number. The red boat is a quarter of the set. Yellow boats make up three-fourths of the quartet.

Denominators show the number of equal pieces that make one whole thing. Each boat is a quarter of the set. The unit fraction is one-fourth ~ four equal parts are needed to make an entire quartet.



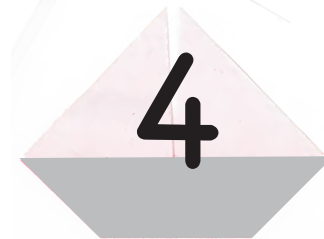
numerator

number of
unit fractions
being described



denominator

number of
unit fractions needed
to make one whole thing



Three boats are yellow.
There are four boats in all.

One boat is red.
There are four boats in all.