## **Adding and Subtracting Fractions**

If the denominators (bottoms of the fractions) are equal:

$$\frac{2}{7} - \frac{1}{7} = \frac{2-1}{7} = \frac{1}{7}$$

Keep the same denominator and add/subtract the tops!

If the denominators (bottoms of the fractions) are NOT equal:

Find the **lowest common multiple** (**LCM**) of the **denominators**. Then, **make** the denominators the LCM by <u>multiplying</u>.

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{5} = ?$$

- <u>Multiples of 3</u>: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18 …
- Multiples of 5: 5, 10, 15

The LCM between 3 and 5 is <u>15.</u>

$$\frac{2\times 5}{3\times 5} + \frac{1\times 3}{5\times 3} = \frac{10}{15} + \frac{3}{15} = \frac{10+3}{15} = \frac{13}{15}$$

Multiply each denominator by a number to make them the LCM, 15. Don't forget to also multiply the numerators (tops) of the fractions too!