



Math Lesson 3
Fractions, Decimals II (Grades 4-6)

Instruction 3-3
Interpret and Use Ratios

A **ratio** is a comparison of two quantities.

There are three types of ratios. Each kind of ratio can be written in three different ways. One way in which you can write a ratio is as a fraction. Both ratios and fractions show the relationship between two quantities.

The three types of ratios are part to part, part to total, and total to part. Below are explanations of the three types of ratios as well as the way in which they can be written.

Part to Part		4 to 7 4 : 7 $\frac{4}{7}$ Read 4 to 7
Part to Total		4 to 11 4 : 11 $\frac{4}{11}$ Read 4 to 11
Total to Part		11 to 4 11 : 4 $\frac{11}{4}$ Read 11 to 4

Equivalent ratios are ratios that are represented by equivalent fractions. But how do you find an equivalent fraction? Follow the directions below:

Express the ratio as a fraction.	Ratio 3:5	Fraction $\frac{3}{5}$
Multiply the numerator and denominator by the same number. You can use any number except zero.	$\frac{3}{5} = \frac{3 \times 2}{5 \times 2} = \frac{6}{10}$	
So 6:10 is equivalent to 3:5		