

# Sharing fractions – Student work samples (NM1331)

## Halving strategy

- a) Tipene has 16 play station games. He gives half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of them to his brother.  
Show how to work out how many games he gives his brother.

half gave 16 is 8

Answer: 8

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.  
Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

~~16 is 8~~

$\frac{1}{2}$  of 24 is 12  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 12 = 6

Answer: 6

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.  
Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

$\frac{1}{2}$  of 24 = 12 so what

$\frac{1}{2}$  of 12 = 6 so 6 + 6 + 6 + 6 =

24 so the answer is Answer: 6

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.  
Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

half of 24 is twelve  
and half of twelve is six  
so the  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 24 is six.

Answer: 6

**Dividing by the denominator**

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.

Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

$$24 \div 4 = 6 \quad 24 \div 6 = 4$$

$$6 \times 4 = 24$$

$$4 \times 6 = 24$$

Answer: 6

**Repeated subtraction**

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.

Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

$$24 - 12 = 12 \quad 12 - 6 = 6$$

Answer: 6

**Repeated addition**

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.

Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

$$6 + 6 + 6 + 6 = 24$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \text{ of } 24 = 6$$

Answer: 6

- c) Ihipera has 15 picture books. She gives a third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of them away to a friend.

Show how to work out how many picture books she gives away.

$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = 1 \text{ whole}$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$5 + 5 + 5 = 15$$

Answer: 5

**Reverse multiplication**

- a) Tipene has 16 play station games. He gives half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of them to his brother.  
 Show how to work out how many games he gives his brother.

Handwritten solution for question a):

$2 \times 8 = 16$  So  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 16 is 8.

Answer: 8

- c) Ihipera has 15 picture books. She gives a third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of them away to a friend.  
 Show how to work out how many picture books she gives away.

Handwritten solution for question c):

the answer is 5 because there are 3 5s in 15.

Answer: 5

**Visual mapping or grouping strategy**

- c) Ihipera has 15 picture books. She gives a third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of them away to a friend.  
 Show how to work out how many picture books she gives away.

Handwritten solution for question c) using a visual mapping strategy:

The friend	Ihipera	
$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	3
5	10	3
		15

Answer: 5

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.  
 Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.


Handwritten solution for question b) using a visual mapping strategy:

Visual representation of 24 sweets divided into 4 groups of 6.

Answer: 6

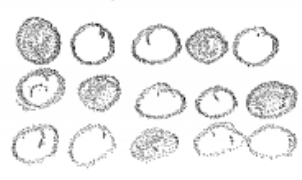
- a) Tipene has 16 play station games. He gives half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of them to his brother.  
 Show how to work out how many games he gives his brother.

$8 + 8 = 16$



Answer: 8

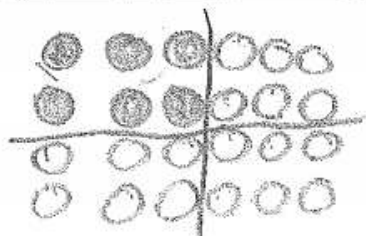
- c) Ihipera has 15 picture books. She gives a third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of them away to a friend.  
 Show how to work out how many picture books she gives away.



Shad 1 out of  
 every 3

Answer: 5


- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.  
 Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.



Slit it in half and  
 slit that half in half

Answer: 6

- c) Ihipera has 15 picture books. She gives a third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of them away to a friend.  
 Show how to work out how many picture books she gives away.



$5 \times 3 = 15$

Answer: 5

**Other whole number misconceptions (not recognising the part-whole nature of fractions)**

- a) Tipene has 16 play station games. He gives half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of them to his brother.

Show how to work out how many games he gives his brother.

$$\frac{1}{2} \rightarrow 1+1 = \textcircled{2}$$

Answer: 2

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.

Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

$$\frac{1}{4} \rightarrow 1+3 = \textcircled{4}$$

Answer: 4

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.

Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

quarter is about 4 he  
 give him 4

Answer: 4

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.

Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

$$24 - 4 = 20$$

She has 20  
 Left

Answer: 20

- c) Ihipera has 15 picture books. She gives a third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of them away to a friend.  
 Show how to work out how many picture books she gives away.

a third is about 3 or 4

Answer: 3

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.  
 Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

~~24~~ - 3 = □  
 20 + 1 = □

Answer: 21

- a) Tipene has 16 play station games. He gives half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of them to his brother.  
 Show how to work out how many games he gives his brother.

$16 - \frac{1}{2} = 8$

Answer: 8

**Other insufficient strategies**

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.  
 Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

because half of 20 is ten so a quarter must be 4

Answer: 4



- a) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.

Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

$$12 + 12 = 24 \quad \dots \quad 24 - 12 = 12$$

$$12 \div 4 = 3$$

Answer: 3

- b) Jodi buys 24 sweets. She gives a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of them to her brother.

Show how to work out how many sweets she gives him.

$$12 + 6 = 18$$

Answer: 18

- c) Ihipera has 15 picture books. She gives a third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of them away to a friend.

Show how to work out how many picture books she gives away.

$$\frac{1}{3} \text{ Third} \quad 8 + 1 = 9 \quad 3 \times \text{Third} = 9$$

$$\text{and } 3 \times 3 = 9$$

Answer: 9

- c) Ihipera has 15 picture books. She gives a third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of them away to a friend.

Show how to work out how many picture books she gives away.

$$15 - 2 = \square$$

$$12 + 1 =$$

Answer: 13