

# Simplifying Fractions Pencast Handout

When simplifying a fraction you must divide the numerator and denominator by the highest number that you can divide into both numbers evenly.

$$\frac{4}{12}$$

If I list the factors of each number, 4 and 12 I get...  
4: 1, 2, 4  
12: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12

You can divide both 4 and 12 by 2 and 4. (These factors are in common.)  
4 is the highest, so we divide by 4.

$$\frac{4}{12} \div 4 = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\frac{12}{28}$$

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$$\frac{25}{45}$$

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$$\frac{9}{36}$$

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$$\frac{16}{72}$$

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