

Converting a Mixed Number to an Improper Fraction

A **mixed number** is a fraction greater than one (1). It has a whole number and a fraction.

EXAMPLE

$$5\frac{1}{3}$$

This mixed number is read *five and one-third*.

An **improper fraction** is a fraction greater than one (1). The digit in the numerator (top) is greater than the digit in the denominator (bottom).

EXAMPLE

$$\frac{9}{4}$$

Notice, the numerator (9) is greater than the denominator (4).

This improper fraction is read *nine-fourths*.

To convert a mixed number to an improper fraction follow these three steps:

Step 1: Use the same denominator as in the mixed number.

Step 2: Multiply the denominator by the whole number.

Step 3: Add the numerator to the step 2 answer. This number is the new numerator.

EXAMPLE

Convert $5\frac{1}{3}$ to an improper fraction.

Step 1: $\overline{3}$

Step 2: $5 \times 3 = 15$

Step 3: $15 + 1 = 16$

$$5\frac{1}{3} = \frac{16}{3}$$