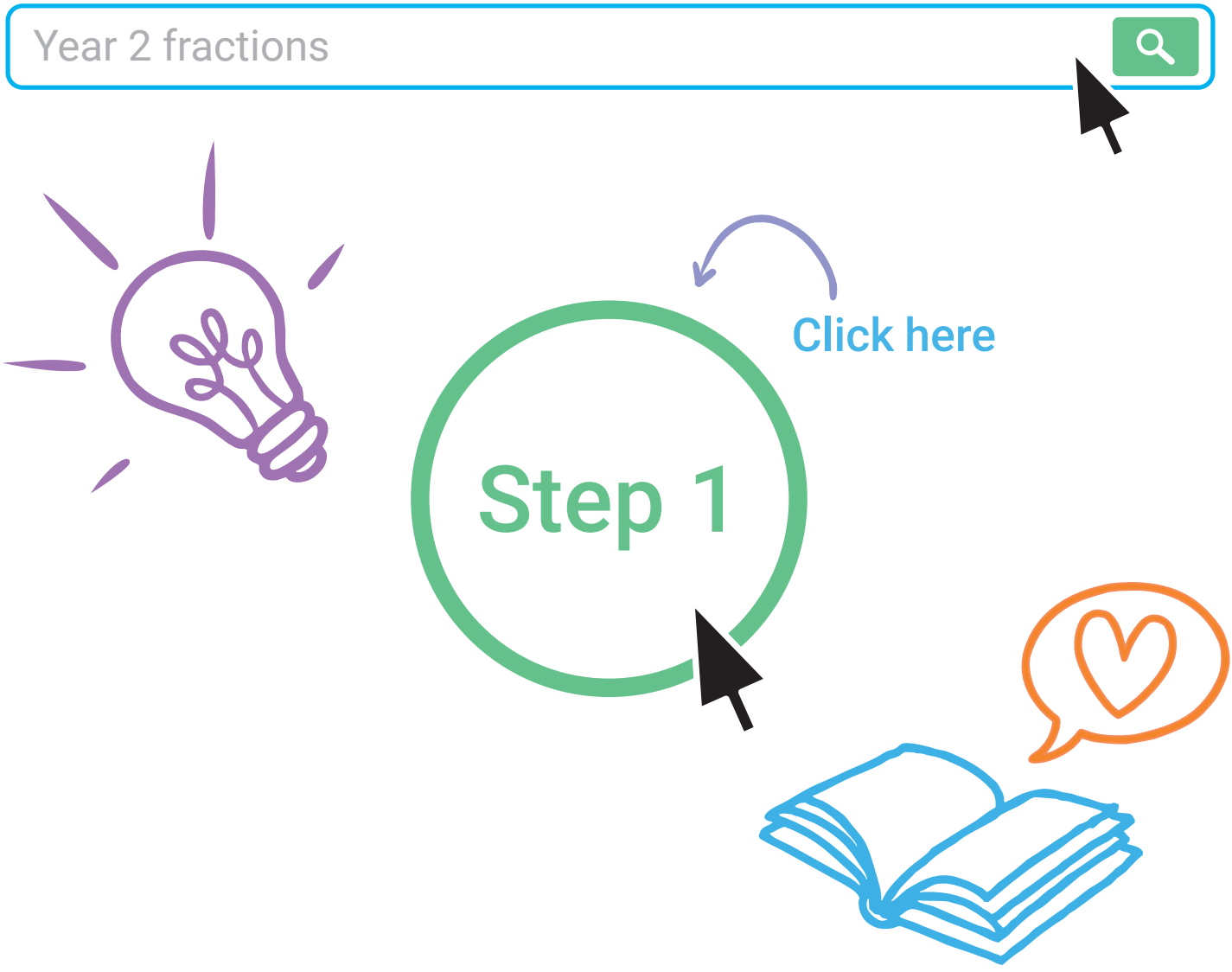
Year 2 Fractions: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to learning fractions can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring whether your child is learning is just learning to work with halves and quarters or whether they're able to recognise a range of fractions, there'll be a suitable step for your child.

Within **this area of the website,** you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Fractions

What Does the Maths National Curriculum Say about Fractions in Year 2?

In year 2, children build on their understanding of halves and quarters. Children need to practise counting up and down to ten using fractions and they start to work with a wider range of fractions. At this stage, your child will start to work on the 'concept' of fractions too, so that they can shade in a wide variety of fractions of shapes.

How Do Children Understand Fractions?

Teachers usually start with shading parts of circles, but by the end of the year your child ought to be able to shade fractions of a variety of shapes. For example, $\frac{1}{3}$ means a whole divided into three equal parts and it refers to one of these three parts. Your child will also learn how to work with fractions of measures, for example pouring half of the amount of liquid into a new container or cutting a piece of string into thirds. Sometimes, your child will be given a set of objects (like 20 counters) and be asked to separate them into halves or quarters. During year 2, children also learn their first 'non-unit' fraction which is $\frac{3}{4}$.

What Is a Non-Unit Fraction?

Non-unit fractions are those where the numerator (top number) is not 1. $\frac{3}{4}$ is the first non-unit fraction that children meet because children work with halves and quarters first. Once children understand the concept of a fraction, for example that 3/4 means '3 out of 4', children can often shade a much larger number of non-unit fractions without too much extra teaching.

Counting Up and Down

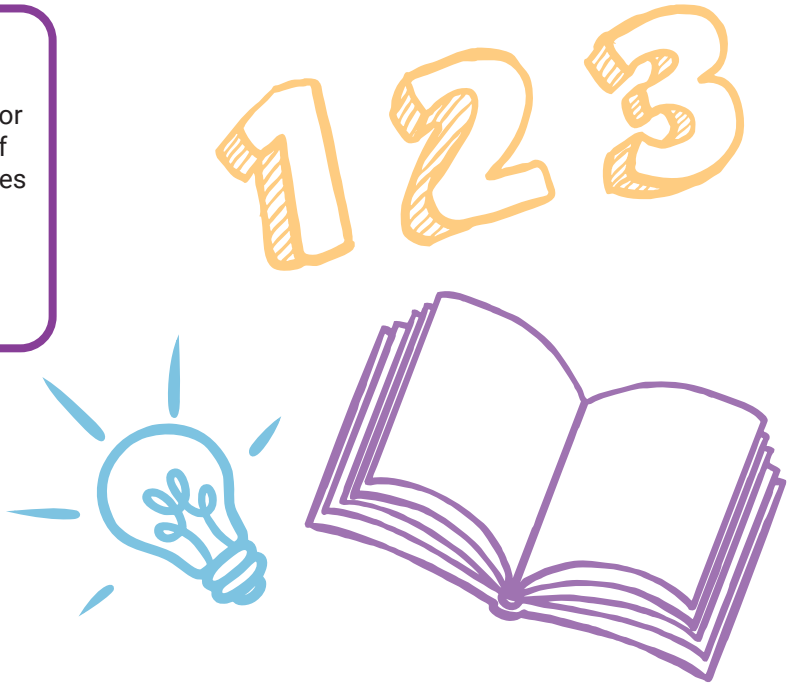
While away time on a journey by counting in whole numbers and then in fractions up to 10. For example, "half, one, one-and-a-half, two, two-and-a-half, three..." . Once your child can manage counting up, try going up to ten, then back down to zero. Once that's done go for quarters.

Loaf of Bread

Try dividing up a loaf of bread into different fractions. To be exact, you should remove the crusts first. How many slices in half a loaf? What about a quarter, three quarters or a third? Talk to your child about why fractions are important in families or when organising a party so that food is divided into the right number of parts.

Recipe Fractions

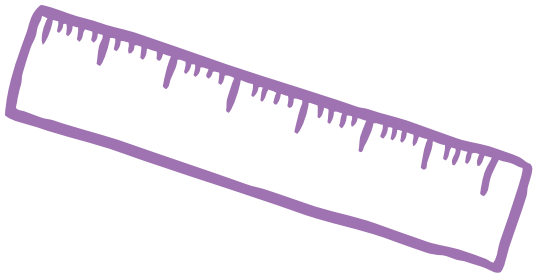
Try finding an easy recipe, such as one for biscuits or fairy cakes. Make the recipe for half the number of biscuits/cakes. Get your child to half all the quantities in the recipe and check it before they start.



Step 1

Halves and Quarters

It's a good idea to start with the work that is usually covered in year 1. This simple worksheet encourages your child to write down the total number of objects and then count out and circle half or a quarter of the set. Be sure to read the question aloud in words, so if the question says '$\frac{1}{2}$ of 12', say, "half of twelve equals". Then get your child to draw twelve circles or ticks and count off into two equal groups. If your child works better with physical objects, use something simple like counters and separate them on the table.



Step 2

Different Fractions

Print this sheet out and show it to your child. Write the fractions $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ and talk about what these mean. $\frac{1}{2}$ means one part out of two; the whole is divided into two. $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ are fractions where the object is divided into four equal parts; $\frac{1}{4}$ refers to one of those parts and $\frac{3}{4}$ refers to three of them. When we try to shade $\frac{3}{4}$, we are shading '3 out of 4'. When we shade $\frac{1}{2}$, we are shading one part out of 2. Work through three or four of the questions together until your child gets the idea and then allow them to work independently.

Step 3

Roll a Fraction

At step 2, your child started to understand that both numbers on a fraction tell them something important. They should be growing towards the understanding that even if they see a new fraction, they know what it means. For example, if Jane has $\frac{7}{8}$ of her cake left, it is as if she has a cake cut into 8 equal parts. 7 of those parts are left, so one must have been eaten. This fun game helps to reinforce Step 2 and make your child confident at spotting fractions. The dice for this game is included, but don't forget to make it first!

Step 4

Fraction Bingo

Playing Fractions Bingo is so fun and simple! The board you begin with has a number of shapes with filled in, coloured segments which represent a fraction. Cut the fraction number cards up separately and put them in a bowl, or shuffle them, and put them upside down. One person calls out the fraction. If you want to use the cards more than once, give out counters to put on each shape when that fraction is called. Play as a family to enjoy learning together.

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!