Dividing Fractions Parents' Guide

Dividing Fractions

There are many ways to divide fractions. Too often people only know one way – "flipping" the second fraction and multiplying. Many people were taught this rule and often don't know why the rule works. In fact, back in the day, some of us were taught, "It is not for you to question why, just invert and multiply."

Often students are taught to divide fractions by changing the operation to multiplication and multiplying by the reciprocal of the second fraction.

$$\frac{a}{b} \div \frac{c}{b}$$

$$= \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{d}{c}$$

Unfortunately this is just a rule and although it works it is sometimes the least efficient way to divide fractions. Did you know you can j