



What do the numbers in fractions mean?

Let's have a look at our pie again:



$$\frac{3}{4}$$

The top number shows how many pieces we have of the whole pie. Here, we have 3 pieces, or parts. This is called the **numerator**.

The bottom number shows how many pieces there are in the whole pie. Here, the whole is split into 4 pieces, or parts. This is called the **denominator**.

Tip

To remember which is which,
numerator is up
and **denominator is down**.

Fraction pieces

With fractions, the larger the denominator (the number on the bottom) the more pieces a whole is split up into and the smaller the pieces. For example, the more people you share a pizza with, the smaller your piece will be.

For example, the pizzas below have been split up to be shared between:

2 friends

3 friends

4 friends

5 friends

6 friends



$$\frac{1}{2}$$



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



$$\frac{1}{4}$$



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



$$\frac{1}{6}$$