

1. A board $\frac{7}{8}$ inch thick is nailed to a piece of wood $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick. What is the total thickness?

Method 1:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Improper: } \frac{7}{8} + 2\frac{1}{4} &= \frac{7}{8} + \frac{9 \cdot 2}{4 \cdot 2} = \frac{7}{8} + \frac{18}{8} \\ &= \frac{25}{8} = 3\frac{1}{8} \end{aligned}$$

or Method 2:

Keep mixed

$$\begin{array}{r} 2\frac{1}{4} \rightarrow 2\frac{2}{8} \\ + \frac{7}{8} \rightarrow + \frac{7}{8} \\ \hline 2\frac{9}{8} = 2 + 1\frac{1}{8} = 3\frac{1}{8} \end{array}$$

2. Solve the equation:

$$3 + \frac{2}{7}x = -2$$

Method 1

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 + \frac{2}{7}x = -2 \\ -3 \quad \quad -3 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{7}{2} \left(\frac{2}{7} \right) x = -5 \left(\frac{7}{2} \right)$$

$$x = \frac{-35}{2}$$

Method 2

LCD is 7

$$3 \cdot 7 + \cancel{7} \cdot \frac{2}{\cancel{7}} x = -2 \cdot 7$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 21 + 2x = -14 \\ -21 \quad \quad -21 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{2x}{2} = \frac{-35}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{-35}{2}$$