

CLIL Maths: reading fractions in English

A fraction names part of a whole divided into equal parts. This English-through-maths activity teaches a half, a quarter and three quarters. Explain both the number of equal parts and the number selected.

Anglais 1AC - Supplementary practice - Updated 27/10/2026

Learning goals

- Name equal parts of the same whole
- Read the fraction and explain its meaning
- Check equality before calling a piece a quarter

1. How do I say one half, one quarter and three quarters in English?

Read $\frac{1}{2}$ as one half or a half, $\frac{1}{4}$ as one quarter or a quarter, and $\frac{3}{4}$ as three quarters. The denominator tells how many equal parts make the whole; the numerator tells how many are selected. Use plural quarters after three.



Fractions require equal parts of one whole.

2. Name equal parts of the same whole

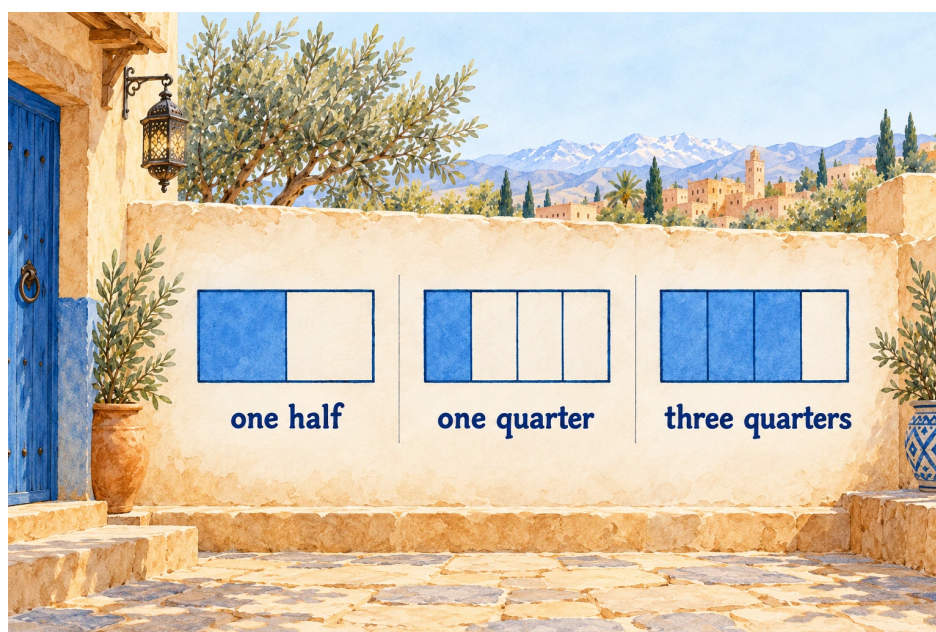
In one quarter, the whole has four equal parts and one is selected. In three quarters, three of the four equal parts are selected. Say one half or a half for $\frac{1}{2}$; one quarter or a quarter for $\frac{1}{4}$. Use the plural quarters when the numerator is greater than one.

The denominator counts equal parts in the whole; the numerator counts selected parts. Equality matters: four pieces of different sizes do not automatically make quarters. To compare simple fractions, imagine the same whole divided into the stated equal parts.

3. Read the fraction and explain its meaning

Fraction	Read aloud	Meaning
$1/2$	a half / one half	one of two equal parts
$1/4$	a quarter / one quarter	one of four equal parts
$3/4$	three quarters	three of four equal parts
$2/4$	two quarters	the same amount as one half

4. Follow the coloured paper-strip example



$1/2$ is a half; $1/4$ is a quarter.

Read and explain this example

A paper strip has four equal sections. Lina colours one section blue and two sections green. One quarter is blue. Two quarters are green. Altogether, three quarters are coloured and one quarter is blank.

5. Check equality before calling a piece a quarter

Counting pieces is not enough. A strip cut into four unequal pieces has four pieces, but each piece is not automatically one quarter. Quarters must be equal parts of the same whole. The same-whole condition also matters when comparing amounts: three quarters of a small strip may be smaller in length than one half of a much larger strip. In a simple fraction comparison, keep the whole fixed so that the comparison has a clear meaning.



Use quarters after two, three or more.

Check this

Keep the same whole when comparing amounts. Three quarters is larger than one half of that same whole; it need not be larger than half of a much bigger object.

Put the idea into practice

1. Check that the whole is divided into equal parts.
2. Count the total parts and the selected parts separately.
3. Say the fraction in words and check whether the denominator word needs a plural.

Remember

- Fractions require equal parts of one whole.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ is a half; $\frac{1}{4}$ is a quarter.
- Use quarters after two, three or more.

Practice - Try before checking

Answer in your notebook. Use evidence from the examples and check your sentences.

Exercise 1. Read aloud

Write $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ in English words.

Exercise 2. Use the model

What fraction is green? What fraction is coloured altogether?

Exercise 3. Explain a mistake

A student cuts a cake into four unequal pieces and calls every piece a quarter. Explain.

Exercise 4. Describe an uncoloured amount

A strip has four equal parts. Three are coloured blue. What fraction is blank, and what fraction is blue?

Explained answers

Exercise 1. Read aloud

A half; a quarter; three quarters. One half and one quarter are also correct.

Exercise 2. Use the model

Two quarters are green. Three quarters are coloured: one blue quarter plus two green quarters.

Exercise 3. Explain a mistake

Quarters must be four equal parts of the same whole. Four pieces alone do not guarantee four quarters.

Exercise 4. Describe an uncoloured amount

One quarter is blank and three quarters are blue. The four quarters together make the whole strip.

Frequently asked questions

How do I say one half, one quarter and three quarters in English?

Read $\frac{1}{2}$ as one half or a half, $\frac{1}{4}$ as one quarter or a quarter, and $\frac{3}{4}$ as three quarters. The denominator tells how many equal parts make the whole; the numerator tells how many are selected. Use plural quarters after three.

Why do I say three quarters but one quarter?

The denominator word behaves like a count noun here: one quarter is singular, while three quarters is plural.

Are two quarters and one half equal?

Yes, when they refer to the same whole. Two of four equal parts cover the same amount as one of two equal parts.



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