Use of Fractions in Everyday Life

We deal with a lot of like fractions, unlike fractions and mixed numbers in day-to-day life. Here are few examples.

Example 1: A board $2\frac{7}{16}$ cm thick is glued to another board of thickness $3\frac{1}{8}$ cm. What is the combined thickness of the boards?

Solution: Thickness of one board = $2\frac{7}{16} = \frac{39}{16}$ cm

Thickness of another board = $3\frac{1}{8} = \frac{25}{8}$ cm

Thickness of combined board = $\frac{39}{16} + \frac{25}{8}$ cm

$= \frac{(39 \times 1)+(25 \times 2)}{16} = \frac{39+50}{16}$

$= \frac{89}{16} = 5\frac{9}{16}$ cm

Hence, thickness of combined board is $5\frac{9}{16}$ cm.

Example 2: What must be added to $3\frac{5}{7}$ to make $6\frac{1}{14}$?

Solution: Here, $3\frac{5}{7} + ? = 6\frac{1}{14}$

= The fraction to be added = $6\frac{1}{14} - 3\frac{5}{7}$

$= \frac{85}{14} - \frac{26}{7} = \frac{(85 \times 1)-(26 \times 2)}{14}$

$= \frac{85-52}{14} = \frac{33}{14} = 2\frac{5}{14}$.

Hence, $2\frac{5}{14}$ must be added.