Explore together

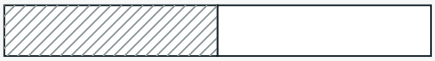
Equal Parts and First Fractions

Find halves and quarters by checking whether parts of the whole are the same size.

Get ready: Two or three same-size paper strips to fold.

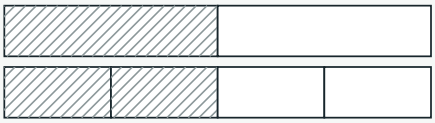
01 Two equal parts

Fold a paper strip into two parts that line up exactly.
One of those equal parts is one half of the whole strip.
Ask: If one part is bigger, can either part be half?



02 One half and two quarters

Start with two strips that are the same size.
Shade one half on one strip and two quarters on the other.
Line them up. The shaded parts cover the same amount.



Ask as you play

“Can you show me how you know?” Let your child point, build, draw or tell.

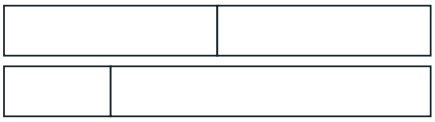
Try it yourself

Equal Parts and First Fractions

Point, build, draw or tell. A grown-up can read each question.

1

The strips are the same size. Which one is split into two equal parts, the top or the bottom?



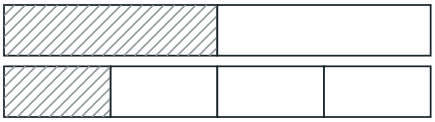
2

One part is shaded. What fraction of the whole strip does it show? You can say it in words.



3

These strips are the same size. Which strip has more shaded, the top or the bottom?



4

Shade one half of the whole strip.



5 • Try it if you want

A strip has 8 equal parts. How many parts would you shade to show half?

Parent answer key

Equal Parts and First Fractions

Keep this page with the grown-up.

1 The top strip. Its pieces match in size. The bottom strip has one small part and one larger part.

2 One quarter. Accept “one of four equal parts” or 1/4.

3 The top strip. A half covers more than a quarter when the wholes are the same size.

4 Any two of the four equal parts make a half. The two parts can touch or be apart.

5 4 parts. Four are shaded and four are unshaded, so the two amounts are equal.

What did you notice?

Tried alone, tried with help, or skipped? Pointing, building and explaining all count.

Next time

Try shading half of one small strip and one large strip. Is the amount of paper shaded the same?