common denominator

$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}$ To add or subtract fractions with different denominators we have to convert them so they have the same or common denominator, a number that they will both divide into evenly.

Step 1 Work out the multiples for each denominator.

$\frac{1}{3}$ → 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ → 4, 8, 12, 16, 20

Step 2 Then it's easy to see the least or lowest common denominator (multiple). 12

Step 3 Convert your fraction to its equivalent using the lowest common denominator (multiple). 12

$\frac{1}{3} \xrightarrow{\times 4} \frac{4}{12}$ $\frac{1}{4} \xrightarrow{\times 3} \frac{3}{12}$

Don't forget to multiply the top AND the bottom

Step 4 Add your equivalent fractions. You now have the answer.

$\frac{4}{12} + \frac{3}{12} = \frac{7}{12}$ or $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{7}{12}$