Adding Mixed Numbers

$$3\frac{3}{4} + 2\frac{7}{8} =$$

1. **Do I need a common denominator?**
   - **Yes, because I can't add fourths to eighths. But I know that 4 and 8 are in the same fact family so I can multiply $\frac{3}{4}$ by 2 to get $\frac{6}{8}$.**

$$3\frac{3}{4} \, x \, \frac{2}{2} = 3\frac{6}{8} + 2\frac{7}{8} =$$

2. **I add, working from right to left. I can set up my problem vertically or keep it horizontal.**

   - **First, add the fractions. 6+7=13, the denominator never changes when we are just adding! Next, add the whole numbers 3+2=5. Altogether we have $5\frac{13}{8}$. WE AREN'T DONE!**

$$3\frac{6}{8}$$
$$+ 2\frac{7}{8}$$
$$\overline{\quad 5\frac{13}{8} \quad}$$

3. **Finally, I must fix the improper fraction!**

$$5\frac{13}{8} - \frac{8}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$$
$$5\frac{5}{8} + \frac{8}{8} = 6\frac{5}{8}$$