

Dr. Taylor's Pedagogical Notes

CONVERTING A MIXED NUMBER TO A FRACTION

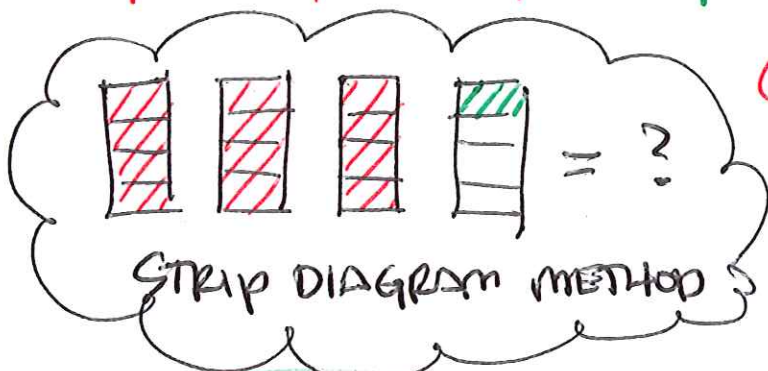
CONVERT: $3\frac{1}{4}$ TO A FRACTION

- ① SINCE A MIXED # IS WHOLE PARTS WITH (+) FRACTIONAL PARTS, WE CAN DECOMPOSE THE MIXED NUMBER

$$3\frac{1}{4} = 3 + \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\underbrace{1 + 1 + 1}_{\frac{4}{4} + \frac{4}{4} + \frac{4}{4}} + \frac{1}{4}$$

- ② NOW WE CAN DECOMPOSE THE WHOLE PARTS INTO "UNITS" OF REPEATED ADDITION.



- ③ HOWEVER WE NEED TO FURTHER DECOMPOSE EACH UNIT "1" INTO FRACTIONS HAVING A "DENOMINATOR" OF "4"

- ④ NOW WE SIMPLY ADD UP ALL "NUMERATORS" (WHICH ARE "HATCHED" AREAS IN THE STRIPS) AND PUT THAT ABOVE OUR "DENOMINATOR" "4"

FINAL ANSWER: $\boxed{\frac{13}{4}}$