

## The Meaning of a Fraction

A fraction is used to describe part of a set.

For example, we have a set of 12 cd albums. In that set, 5 are classical and 7 are rock albums.

Therefore we can represent the set in 2 ways:

5 classical albums  
12 albums in the set

7 rock albums  
12 albums in the set

The fractions would look this way:

$$\frac{5}{12}$$

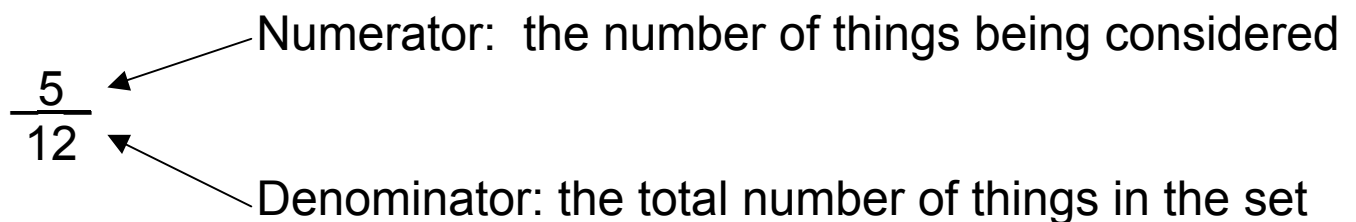
$$\frac{7}{12}$$

When we read the fractions, we say:

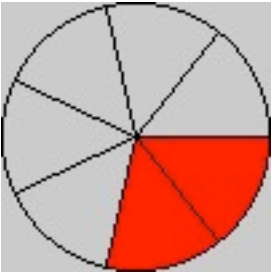
*Five twelfths of the albums are classical.*

*Seven twelfths of the albums are rock.*

There are 2 main parts to a fraction. These parts are called the **numerator** and the **denominator**



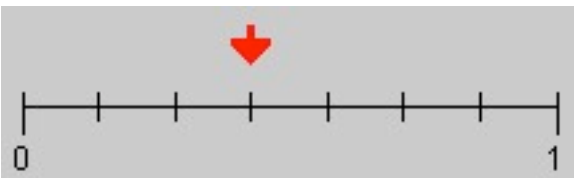
A fraction can also be used to describe part of a region.



In the circle above, there are a total of 7 parts, with two parts coloured black. Therefore we can represent the black part of the circle with the fraction:

$$\frac{2}{7}$$

A fraction can also be used to represent points on a number line.



The number line above goes from zero to 1 and is divided into seven equal parts. Therefore the fraction that represents this number will be:

$$\frac{3}{7}$$