

Multiplying fractions is useful, for example when halving a recipe.

Half a cup of rice would become a quarter of a cup.

What about a more complex example, like five twelfths times two and two ninths?

First, convert any mixed numbers into top heavy or improper fractions.

Two times nine is 18, plus two, gives 20 ninths.

Simplify the fractions if possible by finding common factors for the pairs of numerators and denominators.

In this case, four goes into 12 three times, and into 20, five times.

Multiply numerator by numerator, and denominator by denominator.

So, the answer is 25 over 27.

Remember, to multiply fractions, make mixed fractions top heavy, multiply the numerators and the denominators and make sure that the fraction is simplified for full marks.