Troubleshooting Solutions

Logan's class is learning to create common denominators for adding fractions. Her instructor works at the whiteboard and explains how to create a least common denominator for two fractions with uncommon denominators. Logan is taking great notes and following along with what her instructor is doing. The next problem the instructor models is $3/14 + 4/21$. She explains that 7 is a factor in each denominator and she multiplies the first fraction by 3/3 and the second fraction by 2/2 to get $9/42 + 8/42 = 17/42$. Logan sees what her instructor did and thinks it looks simple. "I'm set for my homework, no sweat!" Later that night, she encounters the following two problems in her homework:

4. $\dfrac{1}{3} + \dfrac{2}{5} =$

5. $\dfrac{4}{15} - \dfrac{2}{45} =$

She feels frustrated and confused. She says, "For problem 4, I can't find any common factors between the two denominators. In problem 5, I see that 5 is a common factor, but so is 3. Neither of these problems are like the problems worked in class today."

ERROR

CORRECTION