Advice on writing problems: For all of these problems, both fractions should be fractions of the same size whole—there should be no problems where 1/2 is half of a whole and then 1/3 is 1/3 of 1/2. This is really easy to do if you use **measurement units** (1/2 gallon vs. 1/3 gallon). If you use pizzas, you can do it, but it's easy to make a mistake if you're not careful with your sentences.

Good problem: Janet had 1/2 gallon of milk. She used 1/3 gallon of milk. How much milk is left?

Bad problem: Janet had 1/2 gallon of milk. She used 1/3 of it (which means 1/3 of 1/2 gallon). How much milk is left?

Your assignment:

First write 4 word problems:

A. Write a comparison word problem for 1/2 and 1/3 (*which* is larger).

Patty gave up 1/2 of the coins in her coin collection. Kathy gave up 1/3 of the coins in her collection. Who gave up a bigger part of their collection? **(Note: This is not asking who gave up more coins.)**

Lucy has 1/2 of a gallon of white milk. Lucy has 1/3 of a gallon of chocolate milk. Which gallon has more milk in it? (This is a good one but maybe we can change the word "gallon" to "container" or something similar.)

Bob has 12 crayons. He gives 1/2 of them to John. Carol has 12 crayons and she gives 1/3 to John. Which person gave more crayons to john?

Lilo had 1/2 cup apples. Her friend had 1/3 cup apple. Who has the largest portion of apples?

Ricardo and Victoria both work at a park mowing the lawn. One day, Ricardo mows 1/2 of the total lawn and Victoria mows 1/3 of the total lawn. Who mowed more lawn?

B. Write an addition word problem for 1/2 + 1/3.

You give 1/2 of a pan of lemon bars to John and 1/3 of the pan of lemon bars to Sue. How much of the pan of lemon bars did you give away?

Mary pours 1/2 of a cup of flour into the empty mixing bowl. Then Mary pours 1/3 of a cup of flour into the same bowl. How many cups of flour are in the mixing bowl?

C. Write a take-away subtraction problem for 1/2 – 1/3.

A fully loaded cart weighs 1/2 ton. 1/3 ton of items are removed from the cart. How much does it weigh now?

A houseplant grows to 1/2 foot. Jill decides to trim it by cutting it back 1/3 foot. How tall is it now?

Mike had 1/2 gallon of milk. Mike gives 1/3 gallon of milk to Tom. How much milk does Mike have left?

Kyra has 1/2 of a cup of juice in her glass, and then she drinks 1/3 of a cup of her juice. How many cups of juice does Kyra have left?

Joe and Sally filled a plant container with 1/2 cup of dirt. They decided that it was too full so they took out 1/3 cup of dirt. How much dirt is in the container now?

D. Write a comparison subtraction problem for 1/2 – 1/3 (*How much more* does ___ have than ___?).

Josh walks a 1/2 mile to the playground. Fran walks 1/3 mile to the playground. How much farther does Josh walk than Fran?

Jackson has 1/2 of a cup of milk. Haven has 1/3 of a cup of milk. How many more cups of milk does Jackson have than Haven?

Beth eats half of her ice cream cone. Allie eats a third of her own ice cream cone. How much more ice cream cone does Allie have left than Beth? (You would not solve this one by subtracting 1/3 from 1/2. You could, however, edit the problem to read, "Beth eats half of her ice cream cone. Allie eats a third of her own ice cream cone. How much more of Beth's ice cream cone was eaten than Allie's?)

Velma had 1/2 a pie to herself. Doug had 1/3 of a pie to himself. How much more pie did Velma have than Doug? (This one is good as is.)

Johnny has 12 cookies. He wants to keep 1/2 of the cookies. He gives Tommy 1/3 of the cookies. How many more cookies does Johnny have than Tommy? (This one needs some editing since it is referring to the number of cookies [not the fraction].)

Ms. Valley and Mr. Hill both have 24 students. One day, 1/2 of Ms. Valley's class wore red t-shirts and 1/3 of Mr. Hill's class wore red t-shirts. How much more of Ms. Valley's class wore red than Mr. Hill's class? (A good one!)