What is an equivalent fraction?
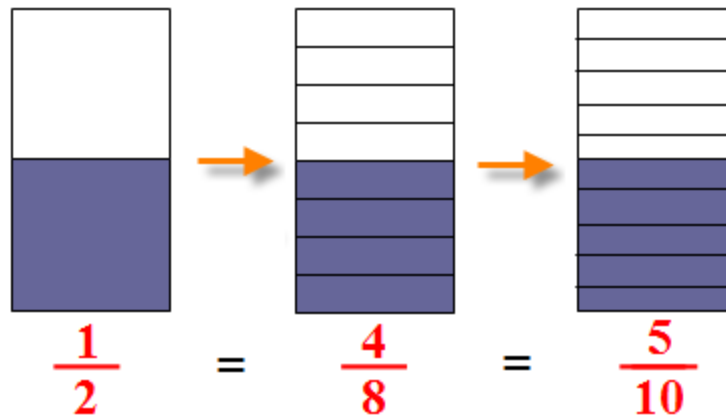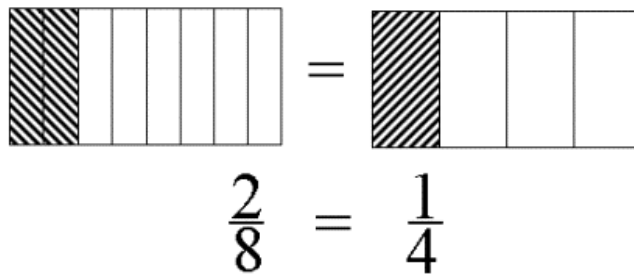
Equivalent Fractions are different fractions that represent (name) the same amount.

$$\frac{1}{2} \quad = \quad \frac{4}{8} \quad = \quad \frac{5}{10}$$

Each of the above fractions are different yet they are equivalent because they each represent the fraction $\frac{1}{2}$.

$$\frac{2}{8} \quad = \quad \frac{1}{4}$$

It is easy to see that the above fractions are equivalent because if they were placed on top of each other the same part would be shaded. However, how can we tell if two fractions are equivalent if we are not given a picture?

$$\frac{2}{5} \text{ is equivalent to } \frac{4}{10}$$