> Notes for parents. Activity next page.

The purpose of this task is for your child to:

* practise adding fractional amounts, and to apply multiplication and division facts to solving problems involving fractions

Think about this:

* Make sure that a pencil and paper are available.

* A couple of solutions to the first problem are 3/4, 1/4, 1/2 and 3/8, 5/8, 1/2. However, do encourage your child to see how many solutions they can find. That way they can answer the second part of this problem, but, more importantly, they will gain confidence as they explore fractional combinations.

* You probably realise that James is right in the first problem because there are an infinite number of solutions!

* The second problem challenges your child to find a fraction of a fraction. However, the mathematics is not in itself challenging since 24 is neatly divisible by the numbers used in the problem.

* Talk with your child about what they find out. Giving them the opportunity to explain their thinking in a logical way is important.
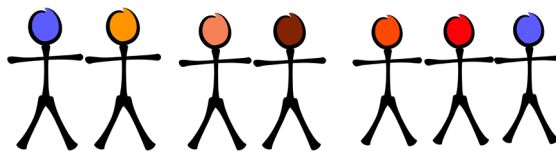
Robbie and James are thinking about this problem.

Three pieces of pizza are left over from a meal. They are not all the same size. Altogether they add up to 1½ pizzas. What fraction might each piece be?

Robbie says there could be between 5 and 10 solutions. James says there could be many more solutions.

Who is right? Show how you know.

There are 24 children in James' and Robbie's class.

There are twice as many boys as girls.
One sixth of the children have red hair.
One quarter of these are girls.
Five eighths play sport at the weekend.
One third of these are girls.
One quarter of the children speak at least two languages. Half of these are girls.

Write what you know about the girls in James' and Robbie's class.