Section 2: Rational expressions
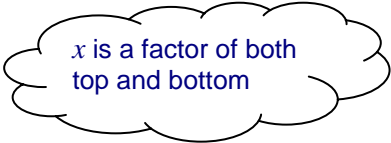
Crucial points

1. **Remember that cancelling means dividing, not subtracting**

   Example: Simplify $\dfrac{x^2 + x}{x}$

   WRONG: $\dfrac{x^2 + \cancel{x}}{\cancel{x}} = x^2$

   RIGHT: $\dfrac{x^2 + x}{x} = \dfrac{x(x+1)}{x} = x+1$

   x is a factor of both top and bottom

2. **Make sure that you can add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions with confidence**
   See the examples in the textbook and the Notes and Examples

3. **Remember to check solutions to equations**
   Always substitute your answer back into the original equation to check (use the fractions key on your calculator so that you are working with exact numbers).