

How to type vulgar fractions on MS Word

Since I knew it, I always thought the fraction slash U+2044 is used together with superscripts and subscripts, and standard form with common digits is a fallback for older systems. Now I've read in the Unicode Standard, section 6.2, Other Punctuation, Fraction Slash, page 273, systems render automatically those sequences into formatted fractions.

MS Word replaces if wished, 1/2 with ½, 1/4 with ¼, and 3/4 with ¾, but that's all. And here, slash is Latin-1 (the solidus, as ISO calls it), and fractions are too. Formatting "by hand" is a solution, but it doesn't look as fine as precomposed Unicode fraction. By contrast, a superscript—fraction-slash—subscript sequence does:

Raw fallback:	Formatted:	Super/sub:	Precomposed:
			
0033 2044 0035	0033 2044 0035	00B3 2044 2085	2157

Now, well, how to type it? All on the numpad. Till fraction slash, it's with AltGr pressed, then Shift is added. On a netbook it's even easier because the numpad is next the AltGr key: Keep Fn pressed with left index, AltGr with right thumb, and strike '3' '/'. Then keep additionally Shift pressed with left middle finger, strike '5' while right thumb is still on AltGr. No formatting, but a font with super- and subscripts is needed, as Arial Unicode MS.