Comparing and Ordering Decimals

Grade 5 Math • Section 1.4

Name: _____	Date: _____	Score: _____ / 14

Quick Review and Helpful Hints

Comparing decimals: Line up the decimal points and compare digits from left to right. The first place where the digits differ tells you which number is larger.

Annexing zeros: $0.5 = 0.50 = 0.500$. Adding zeros to the right of the last decimal digit does **not** change the value.

Use $<$, $>$, or $=$ to compare.

Example: Compare 4.538 and 4.54.

Write 4.54 as 4.540 so both numbers have three decimal places. Now compare digit by digit from left to right. Ones: both 4. Tenths: both 5. Hundredths: 3 vs. 4. Since $3 < 4$, we have $4.538 < 4.540$.

Answer: $4.538 < 4.54$

Practice Problems

Write $<$, $>$, or $=$ to compare each pair.

1. 0.72 ◯ 0.720 _____
2. 3.45 ◯ 3.405 _____
3. 0.089 ◯ 0.1 _____
4. 12.6 ◯ 12.60 _____
5. 5.009 ◯ 5.01 _____
6. 7.830 ◯ 7.83 _____
7. 0.4 ◯ 0.400 _____
8. 6.15 ◯ 6.105 _____
9. 0.52 ◯ 0.520 _____
10. 9.091 ◯ 9.19 _____
11. Order from least to greatest: $3.2,\ 3.02,\ 3.22$ _____
12. Order from greatest to least: $0.505,\ 0.55,\ 0.5$ _____

Word Problems

13. Three runners finish a race in 12.4 seconds, 12.38 seconds, and 12.401 seconds. Order their times from fastest (least) to slowest (greatest).

_____

14. Carlos says 0.30 is greater than 0.3 because $30 > 3$. Is he correct? Explain your reasoning.

_____

Answer Keys

1. $=$
2. $>$
3. $<$
4. $=$
5. $<$
6. $=$
7. $=$
8. $>$
9. $=$
10. $<$
11. $3.02,\ 3.2,\ 3.22$
12. $0.55,\ 0.505,\ 0.5$
13. $12.38,\ 12.4,\ 12.401$
14. No

Step-by-Step Explanations

1. Start with the main idea. For comparing and ordering decimals, write both decimals to the same number of places: 0.72 and 0.720. Therefore the symbol is $=$. Line up decimal places before comparing so tenths are compared with tenths and hundredths with hundredths.

2. Keep the work tidy. For comparing and ordering decimals, write both decimals to the same number of places: 3.45 and 3.405. Therefore the symbol is $>$. Adding trailing zeros can make the comparison easier without changing the number.

3. Look at what the numbers mean. For comparing and ordering decimals, write both decimals to the same number of places: 0.089 and 0.1. Therefore the symbol is $<$. For race times, remember that a smaller time means a faster finish.

4. Use the setup first. For comparing and ordering decimals, write both decimals to the same number of places: 12.6 and 12.60. Therefore the symbol is $=$. Line up decimal places before comparing so tenths are compared with tenths and hundredths with hundredths.

5. Check the size of the answer. For comparing and ordering decimals, write both decimals to the same number of places: 5.009 and 5.01. Therefore the symbol is $<$. Adding trailing zeros can make the comparison easier without changing the number.

6. Match the operation to the words. For comparing and ordering decimals, write both decimals to the same number of places: 7.830 and 7.83. Therefore the symbol is $=$. For race times, remember that a smaller time means a faster finish.

7. Write the important values first. For comparing and ordering decimals, write both decimals to the same number of places: 0.4 and 0.400. Therefore the symbol is $=$. Line up decimal places before comparing so tenths are compared with tenths and hundredths with hundredths.

8. Follow the pattern carefully. For comparing and ordering decimals, write both decimals to the same number of places: 6.15 and 6.105. Therefore the symbol is $>$. Adding trailing zeros can make the comparison easier without changing the number.

9. Start with the main idea. For comparing and ordering decimals, write both decimals to the same number of places: 0.52 and 0.520. Therefore the symbol is $=$. For race times, remember that a smaller time means a faster finish.

10. Keep the work tidy. For comparing and ordering decimals, write both decimals to the same number of places: 9.091 and 9.19. Therefore the symbol is $<$. Line up decimal places before comparing so tenths are compared with tenths and hundredths with hundredths.

11. Look at what the numbers mean. For comparing and ordering decimals, compare by place value: $3.020 < 3.200 < 3.220$. Adding trailing zeros can make the comparison easier without changing the number.

12. Use the setup first. For comparing and ordering decimals, compare thousandths: $0.550 > 0.505 > 0.500$. For race times, remember that a smaller time means a faster finish.

13. Check the size of the answer. For comparing and ordering decimals, fastest means least time: $12.380 < 12.400 < 12.401$. Line up decimal places before comparing so tenths are compared with tenths and hundredths with hundredths.

14. Match the operation to the words. For comparing and ordering decimals, 0.30 and 0.3 name the same amount because trailing zeros do not change a decimal's value. Adding trailing zeros can make the comparison easier without changing the number.

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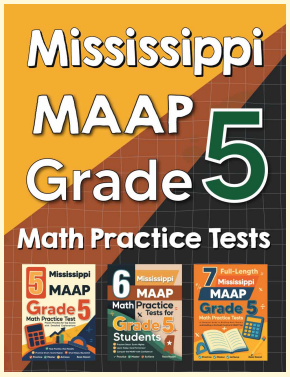

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