

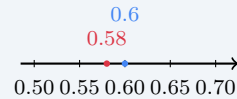
Comparing Decimals

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 18

Quick Review and Helpful Hints

When comparing decimals, line up the decimal points and compare digit by digit from the **left** — tenths first, then hundredths, and so on. If one number has fewer digits, you may add **trailing zeros** without changing its value (so $0.6 = 0.60$). The first place where the digits differ decides which number is larger.

Q Example: Compare 0.6 and 0.58. **Work:** Give them the same length: 0.60 vs. 0.58. Compare the tenths first: 6 vs. 5. Since $6 > 5$, the first number is larger. **Answer:** $0.6 > 0.58$



On the number line, 0.58 sits just left of 0.6.

Practice Problems

Compare each pair using $<$, $>$, or $=$.

- | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1. Compare 0.7 and 0.70 using $<$, $>$, $=$. | _____ | 8. Compare 0.47 and 0.5. | _____ |
| 2. Compare 0.5 and 0.45. | _____ | 9. Compare 0.125 and 0.13. | _____ |
| 3. Compare 0.3 and 0.33. | _____ | 10. Compare 1.2 and 1.20. | _____ |
| 4. Compare 0.9 and 0.89. | _____ | 11. Compare 0.04 and 0.040. | _____ |
| 5. Compare 0.25 and 0.250. | _____ | 12. Compare 0.72 and 0.7. | _____ |
| 6. Compare 0.8 and 0.81. | _____ | 13. Compare 0.9 and 0.099. | _____ |
| 7. Compare 0.6 and 0.06. | _____ | 14. Compare 0.501 and 0.51. | _____ |

Word Problems

15. Two sprinters finish a race in 12.4 seconds and 12.38 seconds. A faster runner has the smaller time — who is faster?

16. Apples are \$3.50 per pound at one store and \$3.45 per pound at another. Which price is cheaper?

17. Tuesday's rainfall was 0.6 inch and Wednesday's was 0.59 inch. Which day had more rain?

18. One package weighs 2.07 kg and another weighs 2.7 kg. Which package is heavier?



Answer Keys

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Step-by-Step Explanations

1. Adding a zero to the end of a decimal never changes its value, so 0.7 and 0.70 are exactly equal.
2. Line up the place values as 0.50 and 0.45. Comparing the tenths, $5 > 4$, so $0.5 > 0.45$.
3. Write 0.3 as 0.30. The tenths tie, but in the hundredths $0 < 3$, so $0.3 < 0.33$.
4. Compare the tenths first: $9 > 8$, so $0.9 > 0.89$ even though 0.89 has more digits.
5. The trailing zero in 0.250 adds nothing, so the two decimals are equal.
6. Think of them as 0.80 and 0.81. The tenths match, and in the hundredths $0 < 1$, so $0.8 < 0.81$.
7. 0.6 is six tenths, while 0.06 is six hundredths – ten times smaller. So $0.6 > 0.06$.
8. Rewrite 0.5 as 0.50. Comparing tenths, $4 < 5$, so $0.47 < 0.5$.
9. Pad to 0.125 and 0.130. The tenths tie; in the hundredths $2 < 3$, so $0.125 < 0.13$.

10. Same whole part, and the extra zero changes nothing, so 1.2 and 1.20 are equal.
11. A trailing zero does not change the value, so 0.04 and 0.040 are equal.
12. Compare 0.72 to 0.70. The tenths tie, then $2 > 0$ in the hundredths, so $0.72 > 0.7$.
13. 0.9 is nine tenths, while 0.099 is less than one tenth. Therefore $0.9 > 0.099$.
14. Write 0.51 as 0.510. The tenths tie, but $0 < 1$ in the hundredths, so $0.501 < 0.51$.
15. Faster means a smaller time. Comparing 12.40 and 12.38, the tenths (4 vs 3) decide it: $12.38 < 12.4$, so the second runner is faster.
16. Cheaper means the smaller price. Compare \$3.50 and \$3.45: the tenths digits are 5 and 4, so \$3.45 is smaller and is the better deal.
17. More rain means the larger amount. Comparing 0.60 and 0.59, the tenths $6 > 5$, so Tuesday's 0.6 inch wins.
18. Heavier means the larger weight. Compare 2.07 and 2.70: in the tenths $0 < 7$, so the 2.7 kg package is heavier.



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