

ORDERING AND COMPARING NUMBERS

What Is Ordering and Comparing Numbers?

- When you order numbers, you are putting the numbers in a sequence from the smallest value to the largest value.
- When you compare two numbers, you are finding which number is larger or smaller than the other. Sometimes the two numbers may be equal to each other. The following symbols are used when comparing two numbers.

$<$ less than



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How to Order Numbers:

- To put numbers in the proper order, you can start by looking at the number of digits each number has. The fewer the digits, the smaller the value.

For example:

In the following numbers, the number 8 is the only number with one digit. This means the number 8 has the lowest value, so it would come first when putting these numbers in order.

| | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|----|
| 42 | 8 | 13 | 47 | 25 |
| | 8 | | | |

- Since the rest of the numbers all have two digits, you can look at the digit in the tens place next. If the digit in the tens place is the lowest of the bunch, it will go next.



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- Then

| | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|
| 8 | 13 | 25 | 42 | 47 |
|---|----|----|----|----|

- If there are two numbers with the same digit in the tens place, you will need to look at the digit in the ones place to see which number is smaller.

How to Compare Numbers

- In order to compare two numbers, you will look at the numbers in a way similar to ordering them. First, look how many digits there are in the numbers. If one number has more digits than the other, it is the larger of the two.

For example:

Compare: 25 and 138

Since the number 138 has three digits and the number 25 only has two, this means 138 is the larger number. Therefore, 25 is less than 138 or $25 < 138$.

- If both numbers have the same amount of digits, you will need to look at the digit in the tens place. If they are the same, move on to the ones place.

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PREVIEW

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They both
look at the
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Try This!

Put these numbers in order from least to greatest.

42 3 15 26 9

14 36 75 8 2

Compare.

46 _____ 87

75 _____ 34

13 _____ 22