

## GREATER THAN, LESS THAN

### What Is Greater Than and Less Than?

When a number is **greater than** another number, this means it is a **larger** number.

- If you are looking at a number line, a number that is **greater than** will always be to the **right** of the number with which you are comparing it.
- The symbol for **greater than** is  $>$ .

When a number is **less than** another number, this means it is a **smaller** number.

- When looking at a number line, a number that is **less than** another number will always be to the **left** of the number with which you are comparing it.
- The symbol for **less than** is  $<$ .

### Tips

- When using the symbol for greater than or less than, remember that it **always points to the lower number**.
- Another way to remember is to think of it as an alligator's mouth. The alligator always eats the larger number!



PREVIEW

Please login or register to download the printable version of this study guide.

[www.newpathlearning.com](http://www.newpathlearning.com)

## How to figure out greater than and less than:

- When given two numbers to compare, first check to see if one of them has more digits than the other. If one of them has more digits than the other, then that number is the greater of the two.

**For example:**

**Compare 182 and 27.**

You can see right away that the number 182 has three digits and the number 27 has two digits. This means that 182 is the larger number. Therefore, 182 is greater than 27 or  $182 > 27$ .

- If the two numbers that are being compared have the same number of digits, start by looking at the first digit in both of them. If the first digit in one number is larger, then that number is greater than.

- If both numbers have the same number of digits and they both start with the same digit, then you need to look at the next number. For example, if you are comparing 57 and 59, both numbers start with the digit 5. Since 7 is smaller than 9, 57 is less than 59 or  $57 < 59$ .

Both numbers have the same number of digits and they both start with the digit 5. Since 7 is smaller than 9, 57 is less than 59 or  $57 < 59$ .



**PREVIEW**

Please login or register to download the printable version of this study guide.

[www.newpathlearning.com](http://www.newpathlearning.com)

## Try This!

Compare the following numbers and add the correct symbol in between. (< or >)

733 \_\_\_\_\_ 765      473 \_\_\_\_\_ 64      92 \_\_\_\_\_ 28      42 \_\_\_\_\_ 49