Comparing Fractions

When comparing fractions, look at the denominators. Fractions with unlike denominators are treated differently than fractions with like denominators.

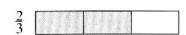
Example 1: Compare $\frac{2}{5}$ and $\frac{3}{5}$.



3 5

When comparing fractions with like denominators, the fraction with the greater numerator is the greater fraction.

3 > 2 So, $\frac{3}{5} > \frac{2}{5}$.



 $\frac{1}{2}$

Example 2: Compare $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$.

Step 1: Find the LCM of the denominators.

Step 2: Write equivalent fractions using the LCM.

$$\frac{2\times2}{3\times2} = \frac{4}{6} \qquad \frac{1\times3}{2\times3} = \frac{3}{6}$$

Step 3: Compare the numerators of the equivalent fractions you wrote.

$$4 > 3$$
 So, $\frac{2}{3} > \frac{1}{2}$.

Directions

Compare. Write the greater fraction in each pair.

- **1.** $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$ _____
- **2.** $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ _____
- **3.** $\frac{5}{8}$, $\frac{7}{8}$ _____

- **4.** $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$ _____
- **5.** $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ _____
- **6.** $\frac{2}{6}$, $\frac{3}{5}$ _____

Directions

Compare. Write <, >, or =.

7. $\frac{3}{4} \bigcirc \frac{2}{5}$

8. $\frac{4}{5} \bigcirc \frac{5}{6}$

9. $\frac{2}{3} \bigcirc \frac{4}{6}$

10. $\frac{1}{5} \bigcirc \frac{2}{10}$

11. $\frac{3}{7} \bigcirc \frac{4}{9}$

12. $\frac{5}{12}$ $\bigcirc \frac{3}{9}$



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Answer Key

- 1. $\frac{2}{4}$ 2. $\frac{2}{3}$ 3. $\frac{7}{8}$ 4. $\frac{1}{4}$ 5. $\frac{1}{2}$ 6. $\frac{3}{5}$
- 7. >
- 8. <
- 9. =
- 10. =
- 11. <
- 12. >