

Name _____

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 $\frac{3}{5}$.



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

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



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

Step 1: Find the LCM of the denominators.

2: 2, 4, **6**, 8, ...
3: 3, **6**, 9, ... 6 is the LCM.

Step 2: Write equivalent fractions using the LCM.

$$\frac{2 \times 2}{3 \times 2} = \frac{4}{6} \quad \frac{1 \times 3}{2 \times 3} = \frac{3}{6}$$

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

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

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



Comparing Fractions

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. >

