

Comparing two fractions

MODULE 3 · FRACTIONS, DECIMALS AND PERCENTAGES NUMBER

To compare two fractions with **different denominators**, rewrite them both with the **same denominator**, then compare numerators.

- $1/3$ vs $2/5$: rewrite as $5/15$ and $6/15$. $6/15$ is bigger, so $2/5 > 1/3$.
- $3/4$ vs $5/8$: rewrite $3/4$ as $6/8$. $6/8 > 5/8$, so $3/4$ is bigger.

HOW TO ANSWER TODAY

- **Compare fractions.** Make the bottom numbers (denominators) the same first. Then compare the top numbers.

$1/4$ and $1/3 \rightarrow 3/12$ and $4/12 \rightarrow 1/4 < 1/3$

TRY IT ON THE LINE

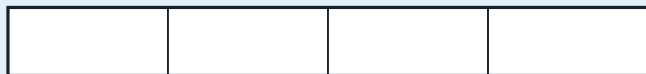
Shade each fraction on its own strip, then write $<$, $>$ or $=$ between the pair.



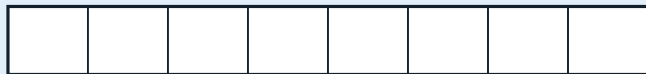
shade $1/3$



shade $2/5 \rightarrow 1/3$ ____ $2/5$



shade $3/4$



shade $5/8 \rightarrow 3/4$ ____ $5/8$

- Strip 1: shade $1/3$ from the left.
- Strip 2: shade $2/5$ from the left.
- Compare: $1/3$ vs $2/5$ — which is bigger?
- Strip 3: shade $3/4$. Strip 4: shade $5/8$. Compare $3/4$ vs $5/8$.

PRACTICE

- Three pupils in 5th class fill their water bottles before going out to the yard. Oisín fills $3/4$ of his bottle, Aoife fills $7/12$ of hers, and Tadhg fills $1/12$ of his. Order the bottles from smallest amount to largest amount of water.

- Three pupils in 5th class have filled their water bottles before heading out to the yard. Oisín's bottle is $3/4$ full, Aoife's is $7/8$ full, and Tadhg's is $1/5$ full. Order the bottles from least full to most full.

Order from smallest to largest: $3/4, 7/8, 1/5$

CHALLENGE

- Méabh checks how full four reading baskets are in the 5th class library. The baskets are $3/4$, $7/12$, $1/12$ and $1/8$ full of books. Order the baskets from smallest to largest amount of books.

- In the school polytunnel, 5th class fill four seed trays with compost. The first tray is $3/4$ full, the second is $7/8$ full, the third is $1/5$ full and the fourth is $11/12$ full. Order the trays from least full to most full.

Order from smallest to largest: $3/4, 7/8, 1/5, 11/12$