Comparing two decimals

MODULE 1 · PLACE VALUE AND THE DECIMAL NUMBER SYSTEM NUMBER

To compare two decimals, line up the place values and **read each digit from left to right**. The first digit that differs decides which is bigger.

→ **5.83** vs **5.79**: units the same; tenths 8 > 7, so 5.83 > 5.79.

→ **0.4** vs **0.40**: same value (the trailing zero adds no quantity).

HOW TO ANSWER TODAY

- **Compare or order.** Compare one place at a time, starting from the LEFT. Use < (less than), > (greater than), or = (equal).
  3.45 < 3.54 · Smallest → largest: 0.7, 0.71, 1.07

TRY IT ON THE LINE

Write each pair of decimals one row above the other so the decimal points line up. Then circle the larger number.

U	t	h

1. Row 1 + Row 2: compare **0.6** and **0.45** — write each, decimals aligned.
2. Row 3 + Row 4: compare **0.07** and **0.7**.
3. Row 5 + Row 6: compare **1.34** and **1.4** (build 1.34 first; then 1.4 = 1.40).
4. After each pair, write **<**, **>** or **=** between them and circle the bigger one.

PRACTICE

1. On the coach trip to the Burren, the teacher records the rainfall in millimetres at three stops along the way: **4.80 mm** at Ennis, **9.84 mm** at Lisdoonvarna and **7.32 mm** at the Burren visitor centre. Order the rainfalls from smallest to largest.

2. Three pupils in 5th class run a sponsored cycle for Cumann na mBunscol. Cian cycles **9.66 km**, Saoirse cycles **7.15 km** and Oisín cycles **9.44 km**. Order the distances from smallest to largest.

ALWAYS, SOMETIMES, NEVER

Always true, sometimes true, or never true? Write A, S or N.

a. A decimal with more digits is bigger. ☐

b. 0.5 is the same as 0.50. ☐

c. Two decimals can be equal even if they look different. ☐

d. If two decimals start with the same whole-number part, the longer one is bigger. ☐

e. 0.1 is bigger than 0.09. ☐

f. Adding a zero to the end of a decimal makes it bigger. ☐