Ordering a set of 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 → 3/12 and 4/12 → 1/4 < 1/3

TRY IT ON THE LINE

Shade each fraction on its own strip, then number them 1 (smallest) to 4 (biggest) in the boxes.

1/4 — order: _____

2/3 — order: _____

1/2 — order: _____

5/6 — order: _____

1. Shade each fraction on its strip.
2. Number them 1 to 4 from smallest to biggest.
3. Write them in order: _____ < _____ < _____ < _____

PRACTICE

1. At break time, Niamh, Cian and Saoirse each open a packet of biscuits to share. Niamh has **11/12** of her packet left, Cian has **7/8** of his packet left, and Saoirse has **2/5** of her packet left. Order the amounts left from smallest to largest.

2. Three 5th class teams played in a Cumann na mBunscol blitz at the county grounds. Cara's team won **9/10** of their matches, Tadhg's team won **2/5**, and Niamh's team won **7/10**. Order the teams' win fractions from smallest to largest.

CHALLENGE

1. 5th class are tracking how full the bird feeder at the classroom window gets each week. In four weeks the feeder fills to **9/10**, **2/5**, **7/10** and **1/8** of the way up. Order these fractions from smallest to largest.

2. 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