

COMPARING DIGIT BY DIGIT

- 1 Line the numbers up in the Th H T U columns.
- 2 Thousands and hundreds match ($4 = 4$, $2 = 2$), so move right.
- 3 Tens differ: $6 > 0$, so this column decides.
- 4 $4,260 > 4,209$.

Th	H	T	U
4	2	6	0
4	2	0	9

WARM-UP

Write each number one digit per cell on the place-value mat, then compare down the columns from the left.

Th	H	T	U

1. Write 4,260 on the top row and 4,209 below it, then circle the tens column that decides and write $<$ or $>$ between them.
2. Write 1,999 and 2,001 on the mat, then circle the thousands column that decides and write $<$ or $>$ between them.
3. Write 7,080 and 7,008 on the mat, then circle the tens column that decides and write $<$ or $>$ between them.

PRACTICE

- 1 Croke Park sold **3,000** tickets for the hurling final and **800** for the minor game. Write $<$ or $>$ between **3,000** and **800** to show which crowd was bigger.
- 2 One GAA county ground took **5,400** fans and another took **5,700**. Write $<$ or $>$ between **5,400** and **5,700** to show the bigger crowd.
- 3 Two football matches drew **6,231** and **6,238** supporters. Write $<$ or $>$ between **6,231** and **6,238** to show which had more people.
- 4 Two hurling matches on the same weekend drew **4,260** and **4,209** fans. Write $<$ or $>$ between **4,260** and **4,209** and underline the deciding column.

SPOT THE MISTAKE

Niamh compares 4,260 and 4,209 like this:

Both start with 4.
Look at the units: $0 < 9$, so $4,260 < 4,209$.

Niamh checked the wrong column. Which number is greater, and why?

REFLECT

When two numbers look almost the same, which column decides for you first?