

Comparing fractions

MODULE 3 · FRACTIONS AND FIRST DECIMALS

NUMBER

HOW TO ANSWER TODAY

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

$$\frac{1}{4} \text{ and } \frac{1}{3} \rightarrow \frac{3}{12} \text{ and } \frac{4}{12} \rightarrow \frac{1}{4} < \frac{1}{3}$$

- **Equivalent fractions.** Whatever you multiply (or divide) the bottom by, do the same to the top.

$2/5 = ?/15$. Bottom $\times 3$, so top $\times 3 \rightarrow 6/15$

 STRETCH PROBLEMS

- 1** Oisín is making sandwiches for the 4th class picnic. He fills $\frac{3}{4}$ of one tray with ham sandwiches, $\frac{7}{8}$ of another tray with cheese sandwiches, and $\frac{1}{5}$ of a third tray with egg sandwiches. Order the trays from smallest fraction filled to largest.

- 2 On the school nature walk through the local park, 3rd class spot that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the trees along the path are oak trees. The teacher says this is the same as a fraction with 9 on the bottom. Fill in the missing number: $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{?}{9}$.