

Comparing and ordering decimals to thousandths

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

To compare decimals, **line up the decimal points** and compare place by place **from the left**. Fill short ones with trailing zeros so they have the same length.

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→ Compare 0.5 and 0.45 → write 0.500 and 0.450 → **0.5 is greater**.

→ 0.62, 0.6, 0.609 in order: 0.6, 0.609, 0.62.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

PUT 0.7, 0.71 AND 0.709 IN ORDER, SMALLEST FIRST

- 1 Give them equal lengths: **0.700, 0.710, 0.709**.
- 2 Compare hundredths, then thousandths.
- 3 Order: **0.7, 0.709, 0.71**.

ANSWER KEY

Warm-up: a) $2.6 < 5.1$ b) $7 > 6$ c) $9.3 > 8.9$ d) $5.9 < 9.9$

Q1: $7.15 < 9.44 < 9.66$

Q2: $1.83 < 4.03 < 7.02$

Spot: Line up the place values: 0.50 vs 0.45. Five tenths beats four tenths, so **$0.5 > 0.45$** . More digits doesn't mean a bigger decimal.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: $2.963 < 4.8 < 5.83 < 8.404$

S2: $4.8 < 7.32 < 9.84$

S3: $4.88 < 6.89 < 9.4$