

Comparing and ordering decimals

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

NUM.FRC.3a compare and express in equivalent terms; and order fractions.

INTERACTIVES Fraction Strips · challenge, display

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

To compare two decimals, line up the points and read the tenths first. Only if the tenths are equal do you look at the hundredths. The one with more tenths (or, on a tie, more hundredths) is bigger.

- 0.7 is more than 0.4 because 7 tenths beats 4 tenths.
- 0.25 is less than 0.5, even though 25 looks bigger than 5.
- 0.6 and 0.60 are the same length.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

WHICH PRICE IS DEARER: €0.30 OR €0.03?

- 1 Line up the points: 0.30 and 0.03.
- 2 Read the tenths first: 0.30 has 3 tenths and 0.03 has 0 tenths.
- 3 3 tenths is greater than 0 tenths, so €0.30 is dearer.



0.30



0.03

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT When two decimals look different, how do you check if they are really the same amount?

ANSWER KEY

- a) 0.5
b) 0.7
c) same

Q1: <

Q2: >

Q3: =

Q4: 0.3 < 0.5, 0.7 > 0.25

Spot: Aoife compared 35 and 5 as whole numbers and ignored place value. Line up the points: 0.5 has 5 tenths and 0.35 has only 3 tenths, so 0.5 is greater (0.50 > 0.35).

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: $4.8 < 9.84$ S2: $9.48 = 9 + 0.4 + 0.08$ S3: $3.47 = 3 + 0.4 + 0.07$ S4: $2.52 = 2 + 0.5 + 0.02$ S5: $7.02 > 1.83$

Investigation: Fraction-decimal twins — open-ended; scan pupils' working for valid solution paths rather than a single answer.