

# 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

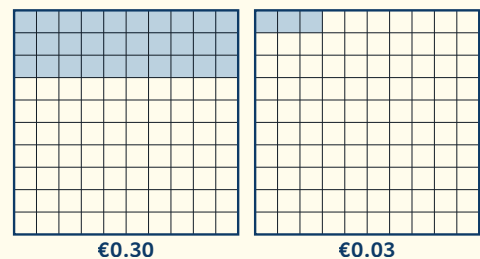
To compare two decimals, line up the points and read the tenths first. Only if the tenths are equal do you look at the hundredths. The one with more tenths (or, on a tie, more hundredths) is bigger.

- 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.



## 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: <

**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:  $3.47 = 3 + 0.4 + 0.07$

S2: between 7 and 8, closer to 7

S3:  $4.88 < 6.89 < 9.4$

S4: between 1 and 2, closer to 1

S5: between 5 and 6, closer to 5

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