

Can I compare and order fractions?

Step 1

Convert all fractions into equivalent fractions with the same denominator – this will make them easier to compare.

$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{5}{6}$	$\frac{4}{9}$
$\downarrow \times 6$	$\downarrow \times 3$	$\downarrow \times 2$
$\frac{6}{18}$	$\frac{15}{18}$	$\frac{8}{18}$

Step 2 – Ordering

Once all the fractions in the set have been converted into equivalent fractions, use the numerators (top number) to help you order them. Remember to read the question carefully so that you know whether you need to order from smallest to largest, or from largest to smallest. Once you have ordered them, convert them back into their original fractions as your answer **MUST** be given using the fractions as they are written in the question.

<u>Smallest to Largest</u>					
$\frac{6}{18}$, $\frac{8}{18}$, $\frac{15}{18}$	In the original fractions:	$\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{4}{9}$, $\frac{5}{6}$
<u>Largest to Smallest</u>					
$\frac{15}{18}$, $\frac{8}{18}$, $\frac{6}{18}$	In the original fractions:	$\frac{5}{6}$, $\frac{4}{9}$, $\frac{1}{3}$

Step 3 – Comparing

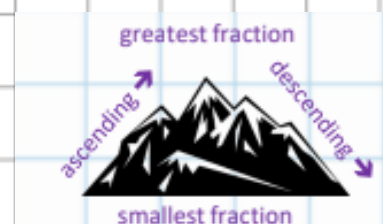
To compare, again look at the numerator to tell you which symbol to use. Once you know which is greater / smaller, write your answer using the original fractions and the correct $<$ $>$ or $=$ symbol.

$\frac{6}{18}$	$<$	$\frac{8}{18}$	In the original fractions:	$\frac{1}{3}$	$<$	$\frac{4}{9}$
$\frac{15}{18}$	$>$	$\frac{6}{18}$	In the original fractions:	$\frac{5}{6}$	$>$	$\frac{1}{3}$

Your turn

Put the following fractions in **ascending order**

$\frac{8}{10}$	$\frac{12}{20}$	$\frac{2}{5}$
$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{7}{12}$	$\frac{3}{4}$



Put the following fractions in **descending order**

$\frac{3}{6}$	$\frac{5}{9}$	$\frac{2}{3}$
$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{5}{9}$	$\frac{3}{6}$
$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{10}$
$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{3}{10}$

Use $>$, $<$ or $=$ to compare these fractions.

$\frac{2}{5}$	$<$	$\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{5}{7}$	$>$	$\frac{2}{3}$
$\frac{8}{10}$	$=$	$\frac{4}{5}$

Answers

Put the following fractions in **ascending order**

$\frac{8}{10}$	$\frac{12}{20}$	$\frac{2}{5}$
$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{12}{20}$	$\frac{8}{10}$
$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{7}{12}$	$\frac{3}{4}$
$\frac{7}{12}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{3}{4}$

Put the following fractions in **descending order**

$\frac{3}{6}$	$\frac{5}{9}$	$\frac{2}{3}$
$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{5}{9}$	$\frac{3}{6}$
$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{10}$
$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{3}{10}$

Use $>$, $<$ or $=$ to compare these fractions.

$\frac{2}{5}$	$<$	$\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{5}{7}$	$>$	$\frac{2}{3}$
$\frac{8}{10}$	$=$	$\frac{4}{5}$