

COMPARING FRACTIONS

What is Comparing Fractions?

- When comparing fractions, you are finding which fraction is greater and which fractions is less than the other.
- Similar to comparing numbers, there are symbols to use when comparing fractions.

$<$ is the symbol used for **less than**

$>$ is the symbol used for **greater than**



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For in the first fraction is three, which is larger than the numerator in the second or the number two. Therefore, $\frac{3}{4}$ is greater than $\frac{2}{4}$ or:

$$\frac{3}{4} > \frac{2}{4}$$

- When the two fractions have **different denominators**, first find a common denominator to help compare. Then continue on as you did with the above example.

Example:

$$\frac{1}{4} \quad \frac{3}{8}$$

These two fractions have different denominators. A common denominator for these two fractions would be 8. The second fraction will remain the same. In order to change the first fraction, the top and the bottom are both multiplied by 2.

$$\frac{1}{4} \times 2$$

$$\frac{3}{8} \times 2$$

The first fraction becomes 2/8. Now you can compare these two fractions.

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