

Comparing Decimals.

Advice and support:

Example 1: When we compare numbers, we first look at the highest place value.

$$4.56 < > = 5.47$$

In this case, the ones is the highest place value and 5 is a greater value than 4 so we know this is the larger number.

Example 2: But what if the largest value column is the same as in this example?

$$4.687 < > = 4.387$$

We then need to move to the next highest place value, the one immediately to the right:

$$4.687 < > = 4.387$$

Now, while you can see that the ones are the same, the tenths is greater on the number on the left. This is the larger number.

Example 3: But what if the numbers have a different number of digits?

$$3.2 < > + 3.09$$

You can still apply the same strategy as in example two but it can be tricky. Another example is to put both numbers on a place value grid and add in place holders to each number has the same number of digits. You can just draw your own place value grid to help – it doesn't need to be anything fancy.

Ones	.	Tenths	hundredths
3	.	2	0
3	.	0	9

I've added a zero as a place holder in the hundredths for 3.2 to make it 3.20 and on the place value grid they are easier to compare. Now using the strategy from example 2 you can see that 3.2 is greater than 3.09.

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Worksheet:

1)

Complete these statements by using the correct symbol: $<$, $>$ or $=$.

a)

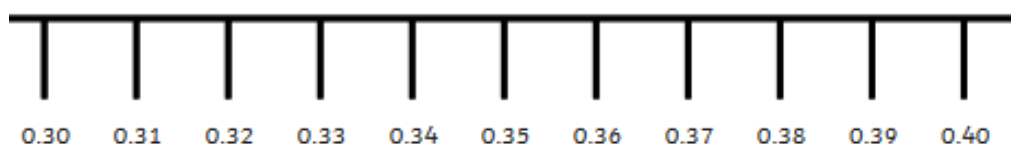
		$1+0.3+0.03$
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b)

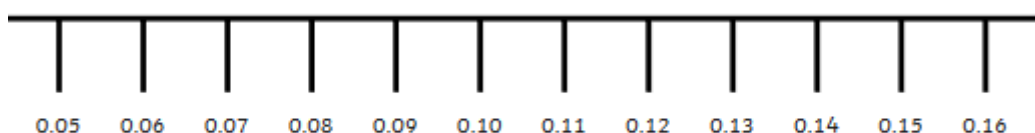
3.24km		3.204km
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2) Place these numbers on the number line to determine which is the larger number:

a) 0.33 & 0.4



b) 0.14 & 0.05



3) Complete these statements by using the correct symbol $<$, $>$ or $=$

		$< > =$	
a	3.41		3.5
d	0.045		0.329
c	2.48		0.945
d	4.99		5.01
e	0.087		0.009

4) Spend some time in your house finding where you might use decimals – check the fridge and food cupboard. Maybe there is something in the bathroom. Where else do we decimals in everyday life? Add these ideas to your class blogs. There is also plenty of decimal exercises on Mathletics.