Comparing Decimals

Explore ideas and representations

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 8

QUICK REVIEW

Compare ones, tenths, then hundredths. A final zero may help: $0.2 = 0.20$. The first place with different digits decides the order. More written digits do not automatically mean a larger value.

Worked example

Compare 0.48 and 0.5.

1. Write both to hundredths: 0.48 and 0.50. Adding a final zero does not change a value.
2. The ones match: $0 = 0$.
3. The first different digits are in tenths: $4 < 5$. Smaller places cannot reverse that result.
4. Therefore $0.48 < 0.5$.
Answer: $0.48 < 0.5$.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Insert $<, >, =$ between 0.7 and 0.65.

2. Compare 0.08 and 0.8.

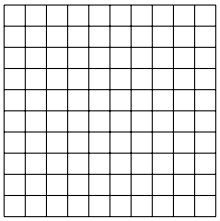
3. Are 0.40 and 0.4 equal?

4. Compare 1.03 with 0.99 using place value.

5. Fix: $0.34 > 0.6$ because $34 > 6$.

6. Find all digits d for which $0.4d > 0.47$.

7. Shade 0.23 of this grid. Is that more or less than 0.3?



100 equal cells

8. Order $0.52, 0.5, 0.25$ from least to greatest.

Answer Key

1. $0.7 > 0.65$.
2. $0.08 < 0.8$.
3. $0.40 = 0.4$.
4. $1.03 > 0.99$.
5. $0.34 < 0.6$.
6. $d = 8$ or 9.
7. Less: $0.23 < 0.30$.
8. $0.25 < 0.5 < 0.52$.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. Write both to hundredths: 0.70 and 0.65. Adding a final zero does not change a value.
2. The ones match: $0 = 0$.
3. The first different digits are in tenths: $7 > 6$. Smaller places cannot reverse that result.
4. Therefore $0.7 > 0.65$.

Problem 2

1. Write both to hundredths: 0.08 and 0.80. Adding a final zero does not change a value.
2. The ones match: $0 = 0$.
3. The first different digits are in tenths: $0 < 8$. Smaller places cannot reverse that result.
4. Therefore $0.08 < 0.8$.

Problem 3

1. Write both to hundredths: 0.40 and 0.40. Adding a final zero does not change a value.
2. The ones match: $0 = 0$.
3. The tenths match: $4 = 4$.
4. The hundredths match: $0 = 0$.
5. Therefore $0.40 = 0.4$.

Problem 4

1. Write both to hundredths: 1.03 and 0.99. Adding a final zero does not change a value.
2. The first different digits are in ones: $1 > 0$. Smaller places cannot reverse that result.
3. Therefore $1.03 > 0.99$.

Problem 5

1. Rename $0.6 = 0.60 = \frac{60}{100}$.
2. $0.34 = \frac{34}{100}$.
3. $34 < 60$, so $0.34 < 0.6$.

Problem 6

1. The tenths digits match at 4.
2. The hundredths digit must be greater than 7.
3. Only digits $8, 9$ work, giving $0.48, 0.49$.

Problem 7

1. 0.23 shades 23 cells.
2. $0.3 = 0.30$ would shade 30 cells.
3. $23 < 30$; the difference is 7 cells.

Problem 8

1. In hundredths the counts are $52, 50, 25$.
2. These counts order as $25 < 50 < 52$.
3. Restore the decimals: $0.25 < 0.50 < 0.52$.

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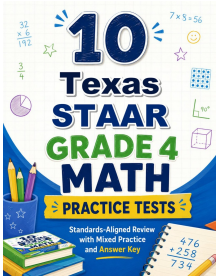

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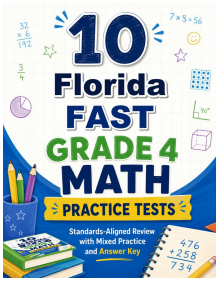

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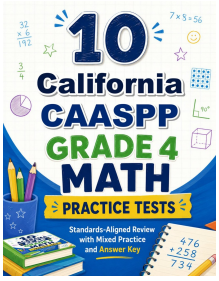

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