Comparing Fractions

Spot mistakes, reason, and work backward

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

QUICK REVIEW

Compare fractions of the same whole. Rename with a common denominator: $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{8}{12}$ and $\frac{3}{4} = \frac{9}{12}$, so $\frac{2}{3} < \frac{3}{4}$. With the same numerator, fewer equal pieces means larger pieces: $\frac{2}{5} > \frac{2}{8}$.

Worked example

Compare $\frac{4}{7}$ and $\frac{5}{6}$.

1. Rename the first fraction: $\frac{4}{7} = \frac{24}{42}$.
2. Rename the second: $\frac{5}{6} = \frac{35}{42}$.
3. The pieces now have equal size; $24 < 35$ gives the comparison.
Answer: $\frac{4}{7} < \frac{5}{6}$.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Test the comparison $\frac{5}{6} > \frac{7}{9}$.

2. Which is greater: $\frac{4}{5}$ or $\frac{7}{10}$?

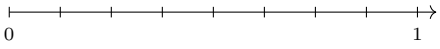
3. Compare fractions with the same numerator: $\frac{3}{7}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$.

4. Rename $\frac{2}{3}$ in twelfths to compare it with $\frac{7}{12}$.

5. A student says $\frac{5}{8} = \frac{7}{10}$ because each is 3 pieces short of one. Correct the claim.

6. Find all whole numerators n with $\frac{3}{5} < \frac{n}{10} < \frac{9}{10}$.

7. Place $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$ on the blank eighths line. State which is farther right.



8. Order $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{2}{3}$ from least to greatest.

Answer Key

1. $\frac{5}{6} > \frac{7}{9}$.
2. $\frac{4}{5} > \frac{7}{10}$.
3. $\frac{3}{7} < \frac{3}{4}$.
4. $\frac{7}{12} < \frac{2}{3}$.
5. $\frac{5}{8} < \frac{7}{10}$.
6. $n = 7$ or 8.
7. $\frac{3}{8}$ is farther right.
8. $\frac{1}{2} < \frac{2}{3} < \frac{5}{6}$.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. Rename the first fraction: $\frac{5}{6} = \frac{15}{18}$.
2. Rename the second: $\frac{7}{9} = \frac{14}{18}$.
3. The pieces now have equal size; $15 > 14$ gives the comparison.

Problem 2

1. Rename the first fraction: $\frac{4}{5} = \frac{8}{10}$.
2. Rename the second: $\frac{7}{10} = \frac{7}{10}$.
3. The pieces now have equal size; $8 > 7$ gives the comparison.

Problem 3

1. Rename the first fraction: $\frac{3}{7} = \frac{12}{28}$.
2. Rename the second: $\frac{3}{4} = \frac{21}{28}$.
3. The pieces now have equal size; $12 < 21$ gives the comparison.

Problem 4

1. Rename the first fraction: $\frac{7}{12} = \frac{7}{12}$.
2. Rename the second: $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{8}{12}$.
3. The pieces now have equal size; $7 < 8$ gives the comparison.

Problem 5

1. The missing amounts are $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{3}{10}$; the pieces differ in size.
2. In fortieths, $\frac{5}{8} = \frac{25}{40}$ and $\frac{7}{10} = \frac{28}{40}$.
3. $25 < 28$, so the original fractions are not equal.

Problem 6

1. Rename the lower bound: $\frac{3}{5} = \frac{6}{10}$.
2. The condition becomes $6 < n < 9$.
3. Only whole numbers $7, 8$ lie strictly inside.

Problem 7

1. $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{8}$, so mark the second tick after zero.
2. Mark $\frac{3}{8}$ at the third tick.
3. $3 > 2$, so $\frac{3}{8}$ is farther right by $\frac{1}{8}$.

Problem 8

1. Rename all in sixths: $\frac{3}{6}, \frac{5}{6}, \frac{4}{6}$.
2. The numerators order as $3 < 4 < 5$.
3. Restore the original names: $\frac{1}{2} < \frac{2}{3} < \frac{5}{6}$.

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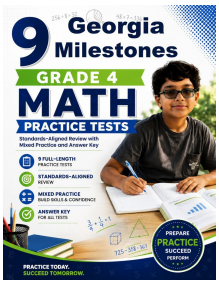

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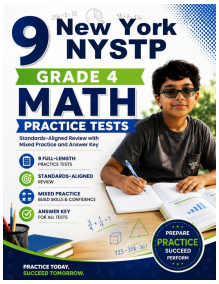

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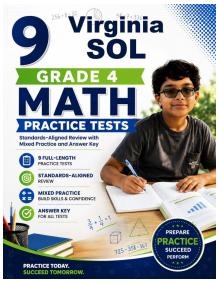

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