Comparing and Ordering Decimals

Comparing and Ordering Decimals: Models and Computation

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QUICK REVIEW

Compare the same places from left to right. Zeros on the right do not change a decimal: $0.6 = 0.600 > 0.594$, because 6 tenths exceed 5 tenths. To order several decimals, align their points and compare each place.

Worked example

Order $2.501, 2.51, 2.5$ from least to greatest using aligned place values.

1. Pad without changing value: $2.501, 2.510, 2.500$.

2. Thousandth counts in increasing order are $2500, 2501, 2510$, so $2.5 < 2.501 < 2.51$.

Answer: $2.5 < 2.501 < 2.51$.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Write $<, >$, or $=$: $3.8 \square 3.75$.

2. Write $<, >$, or $=$: $0.409 \square 0.49$.

3. Write $<, >$, or $=$: $5.06 \square 5.060$.

4. Order $1.23, 1.203, 1.32$ from least to greatest using aligned place values.

5. Choose the middle value among $0.7, 0.68, 0.705$ and show it lies between the others.

6. A student orders these by the number of decimal digits: $2.04, 2.4, 2.004$. Write the correct least-to-greatest order.

7. Lengths are $6.125, 6.15, 6.105$ m. Put the lengths in order, then find the gap between longest and shortest.

8. Order $0.81, 0.809, 0.8$ from least to greatest using aligned place values.

Answer Key

1. $3.8 > 3.75$.
2. $0.409 < 0.49$.
3. $5.06 = 5.060$.
4. $1.203 < 1.23 < 1.32$.
5. $0.68 < 0.7 < 0.705$.
6. $2.004 < 2.04 < 2.4$.
7. $6.105 < 6.125 < 6.15$. Gap: 0.045 m.
8. $0.8 < 0.809 < 0.81$.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. Align places: 3.800 and 3.750.

2. Compare the first differing place; equivalently, thousandths are 3800 and 3750.

Problem 2

1. Align places: 0.409 and 0.490.

2. Compare the first differing place; equivalently, thousandths are 409 and 490.

Problem 3

1. Align places: 5.060 and 5.060.

2. Compare the first differing place; equivalently, thousandths are 5060 and 5060.

Problem 4

1. Pad without changing value: $1.230, 1.203, 1.320$.

2. Thousandth counts in increasing order are $1203, 1230, 1320$, so $1.203 < 1.23 < 1.32$.

Problem 5

1. Pad without changing value: $0.700, 0.680, 0.705$.

2. Thousandth counts in increasing order are $680, 700, 705$, so $0.68 < 0.7 < 0.705$.

Problem 6

1. Pad without changing value: $2.040, 2.400, 2.004$.

2. Thousandth counts in increasing order are $2004, 2040, 2400$, so $2.004 < 2.04 < 2.4$.

Problem 7

1. Pad without changing value: $6.125, 6.150, 6.105$.

2. Thousandth counts in increasing order are $6105, 6125, 6150$, so $6.105 < 6.125 < 6.15$.

3. $6.15 - 6.105 = 0.045$ m.

Problem 8

1. Pad without changing value: $0.810, 0.809, 0.800$.

2. Thousandth counts in increasing order are $800, 809, 810$, so $0.8 < 0.809 < 0.81$.

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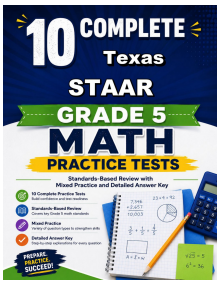

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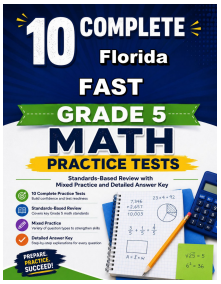

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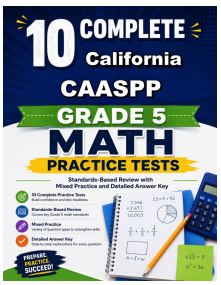

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