

Comparing Decimals

4th Grade

Why 0.7 is bigger than 0.65, even though 65 beats 7.

Decimals are compared from the left, place by place — exactly like whole numbers.

1 LINE UP THE POINTS

1

Write one above the other with the decimal points in a column.

2 EVEN THEM UP

2

Add zeros to the right so both have the same number of places.
0.7 becomes 0.70.

3 COMPARE FROM THE LEFT

3

Whole numbers first, then tenths, then hundredths.

4 STOP AT THE FIRST DIFFERENCE

4

That digit decides it. Ignore the rest.

WORKED

0.7 vs 0.65 → 0.70 vs 0.65 → 7 tenths beats 6 tenths → 0.7 wins
3.40 vs 3.4 → identical. Trailing zeros change nothing.

More digits does not mean bigger. 0.9 is larger than 0.1234.