



Comparing decimals

Understanding the Topic

- Comparing decimals means checking which number is greater, smaller, or equal.
- Always compare from left to right, starting from the whole number part.
- If whole numbers are equal, then compare digit by digit after the decimal point.
- If needed, add zeros to make the decimals have the same number of digits.

Steps to Compare Decimals

- **Step 1:** Compare the whole number part.
- **Step 2:** If whole numbers are equal, compare the tenths.
- **Step 3:** If tenths are equal, compare the hundredths, and so on.
- **Step 4:** Add zeros to make like decimals if needed.

Examples with Solutions

1. Compare 3.2 and 3.5

Whole number: $3 = 3$

Tenths: $2 < 5$

$3.2 < 3.5$

2. Compare 4.75 and 4.8

Whole number: $4 = 4$

Tenths: $7 < 8$

$4.75 < 4.8$

3. Compare 2.6 and 2.60

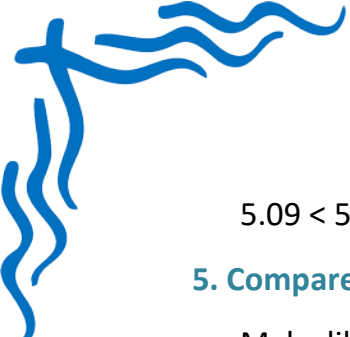
Make like decimals: $2.6 = 2.60$

$2.6 = 2.60$

4. Compare 5.09 and 5.1

Make like decimals: 5.09 and 5.10

Hundredths: $9 < 10$


$$5.09 < 5.1$$

5. Compare 6.48 and 6.5

Make like decimals: 6.48 and 6.50

Hundredths: $48 < 50$

$$6.48 < 6.5$$

Summary Points

- Always start comparing from the whole number part.
- If whole numbers are equal, compare tenths, then hundredths.
- Add zeros to make like decimals if needed.
- Decimal with the greater value after comparing is the bigger number.
- **Example:** $4.08 < 4.8$ because $08 < 80$.