

Compare Number Sentences

Adult Guidance with Question Prompts



Children use comparing phrases and symbols to make the number statements correct, including interpreting ten-frames. They can use concrete and pictorial representations to help with the calculations.

What calculation is represented by the first ten-frame?

Is it an addition or a subtraction calculation? How do you know?

Do the next ten-frames represent addition or subtraction? Explain how you know.

Write the matching calculation for these ten-frames?

Which words go in the middle? Why?

What does this symbol mean? (Show the $<$ symbol)

What does this symbol mean? (Show the $>$ symbol)

What does this symbol mean? (Show the $=$ symbol)

Can you think of another way to finish these number statements?

$15 - 4 <$

$9 + 3 <$

$10 + 4 =$



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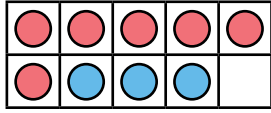
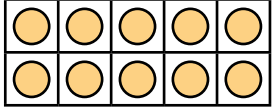
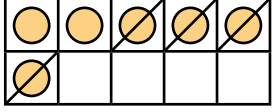


Put the words in the gaps.

is greater than

is less than

is equal to

		$7 + 3$
$15 + 2$		 
$8 + 7$		$17 - 2$



Put the numbers in the gaps.

3

6

8

$15 - 4 < 7 +$

$9 + 3 > 13 -$

$10 + 4 = 6 +$

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Children use the symbols $<$ $>$ and $=$ to compare number statements. They add missing numbers to the statements to make them correct. They reason about how many possible answers there are. If needed, they could use concrete or visual prompts to complete the calculations.

What does this symbol mean? (Show the $<$ symbol)

What does this symbol mean? (Show the $>$ symbol)

What does this symbol mean? (Show the $=$ symbol)

Is there another number that could go in the circle? (Ask this for each of the number sentences.)

Look at Jusna's statement. Do you think she is right? Why?

What is the missing number?

Children choose four number cards (numbers up to 20). Can you make two number calculations using these numbers and compare them using either the $<$, the $>$ or the $=$ symbols?

Compare Number Sentences



How many ways can you find?



$$8 + 3 < 5 + \bigcirc$$

$$7 + 7 > 9 + \bigcirc$$

$$8 + 6 < 7 + \bigcirc$$

$$13 - 6 > 3 + \bigcirc$$



$$9 + 3 = 4 + \bigcirc$$

I can only put one number in.

Is Jusna right? Why?

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Children use the symbols $<$ $>$ and $=$ to compare number statements. They add missing numbers to statements to make them correct. Children create statements from a given symbol and set of numbers. They work with given numbers to make their own comparison number sentences.

What symbol is in the statement?

What does that mean?

What numbers can you add to make the statement correct?

Which of these numbers will you use to make a statement using the $>$ symbol?

Why have you chosen those numbers?

How can you check the statement you have written is true?

Can you prove it using equipment?

When you are using a 'greater than' symbol, would it be better to start with an addition calculation or a subtraction calculation? Why?

When you are using a 'less than' symbol, would it be better to start with an addition calculation or a subtract calculation? Why?

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Put numbers in the gaps.

$$13 - 5 < \square + \square$$

$$17 - 7 > \square + \square$$

$$\square - \square = 11 + 6$$

$$20 - 9 < \square + \square$$



Use the cards to make your own number statements.



$3 + 9$	$<$	$10 - 3$
	$<$	
	$>$	
	$=$	
	$>$	

Which was the hardest? Why?