

Decimals

How do I compare decimals so that I know which is larger?

Here is an easy method you can use:

- 1.) Arrange the numbers you are comparing vertically, being careful to line up the decimal points.
- 2.) Note the longest decimal, and make the other decimals the same “length” by adding zeroes to the far right.
- 3.) Cover up the decimal points to make them look like whole numbers.
- 4.) Compare the “whole numbers”.

Example Which is larger: 0.328 or 0.33 ?

Step 1) 0.328
 0.33

Step 2) 0.328
 0.330

Step 3) 328
 330

Step 4) It is evident from Step 3), that 330 is larger than 328.

Therefore 0.33 must be larger than 0.328

Example Given these numbers: 0.106, 0.16, 0.061, 0.6 arrange them in order from smallest (left) to largest (right).

Step 1) 0.106
 0.16
 0.061
 0.6

Step 2) 0.106
 0.160
 0.061
 0.600

Step 3) 106
 160
 061
 600

Step 4) It is evident from Step 3), that 0.061 is the smallest number, 0.106 is next, then 0.16 and the largest is 0.6.