

COMPARING NUMBERS

BIGGER, SMALLER OR EQUAL TO

GUIDELINES

What?

In math, to **compare** means to examine the differences between **numbers, quantities** or **values** to decide if it is greater than, smaller than or equal to another quantity.

Why?

Comparing numbers is an important part of building a child's number sense.

Number sense is the ability for a child to recognize a number, its value and its relationship with other numbers.

It is this important last component that is built by comparing numbers.

Children will be able to compare two-digit numbers by using the symbols for greater than, less than, and equal to

How?

1. Ask the child to define the word compare. You could help the child by using food grains to compare means by grouping them as "same as", "smaller than", or "bigger than" another group.
2. Write the terms greater than, less than, and equal to a piece of paper.
3. Prompt the child to tell you what each of these terms mean.
4. Write the definition for each on the paper.
5. Remind that greater than means bigger, less than means smaller, equal to means the same.
6. Define symbols that are used to compare numbers by size.

Shall we learn a new topic today?

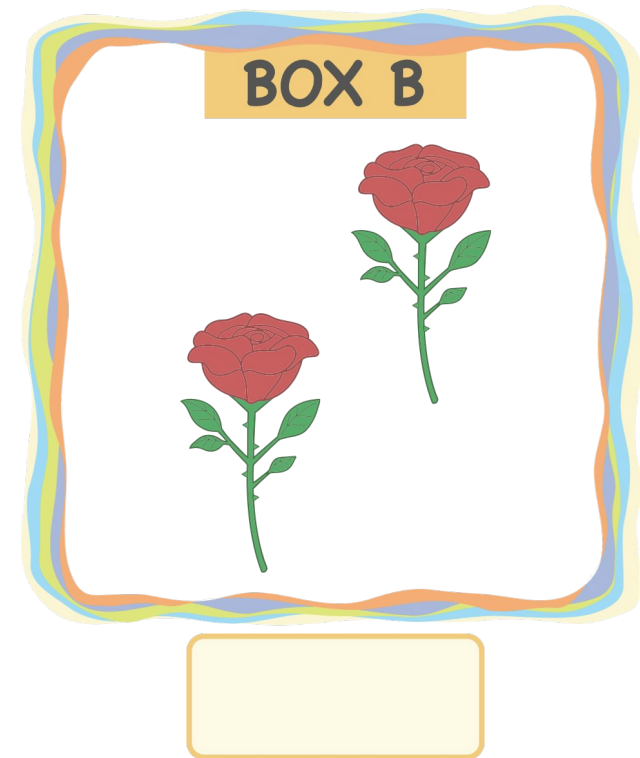
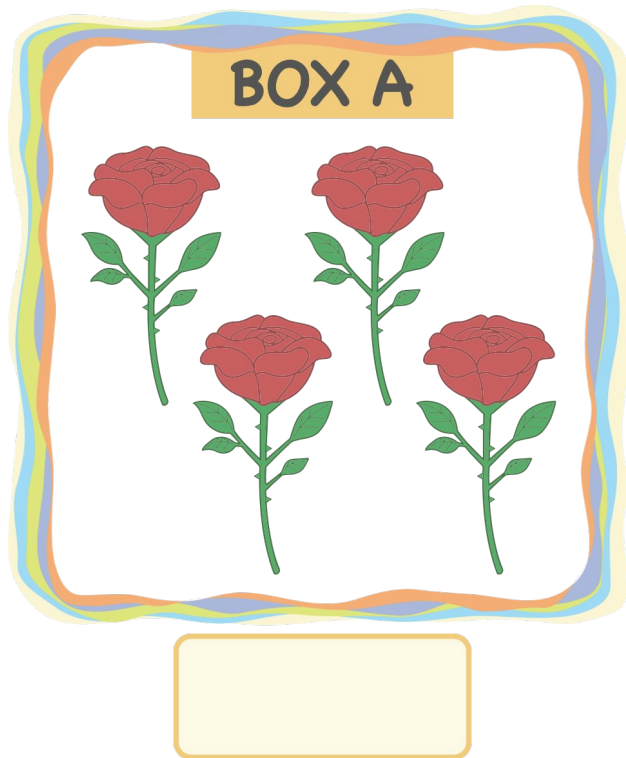
Let us start by counting numbers 1 - 10



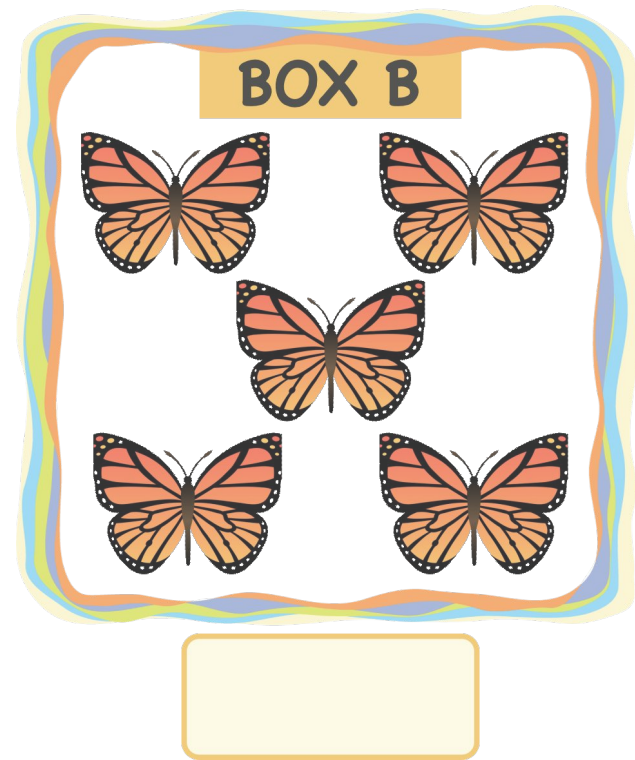
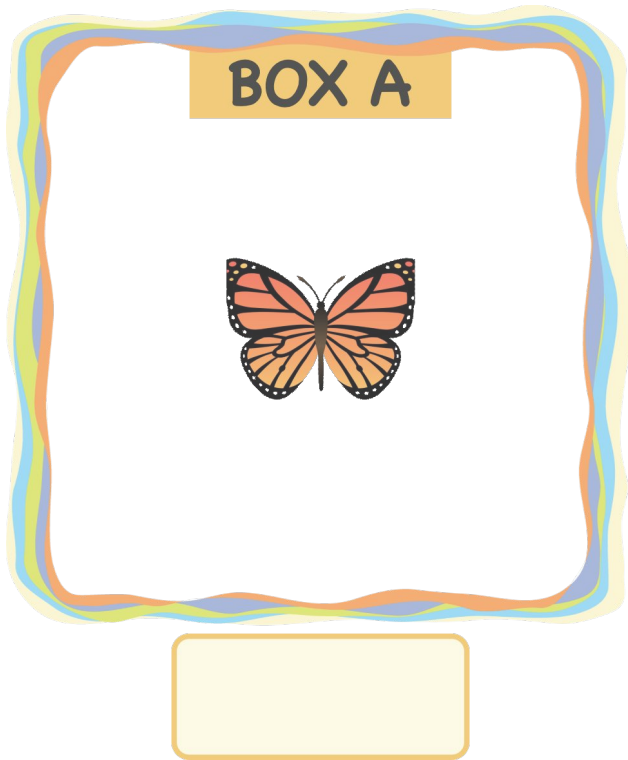
Great! The topic is to find out
bigger or smaller or equal to numbers and
how to mark them with appropriate symbols for them.

To understand that, let us do an activity

Count the number of roses in each box and write the number in the blank space



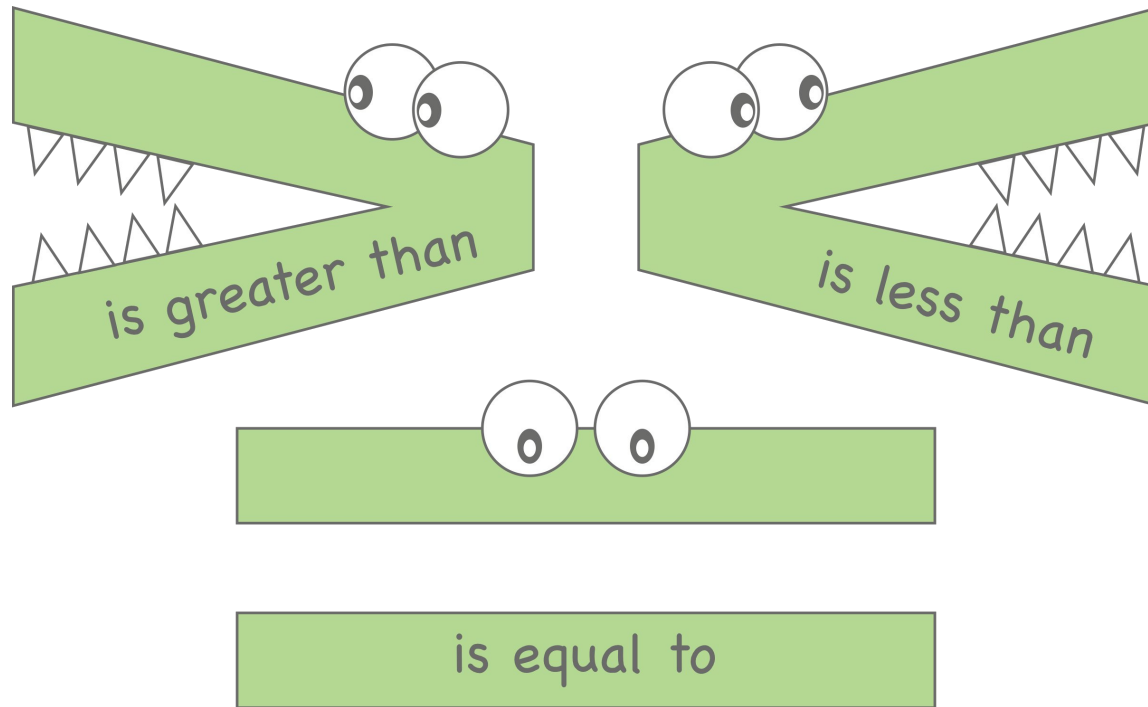
Which box has greater number of roses? A or B
Which box has lesser number of Roses? A or B



Which box has greater number of butterflies? A or B
Which box has lesser number of butterflies? A or B

Are you able to count and find which box has more and less numbers?

Great! then, let us move forward and learn how to read and compare numbers and the symbols. Ready?

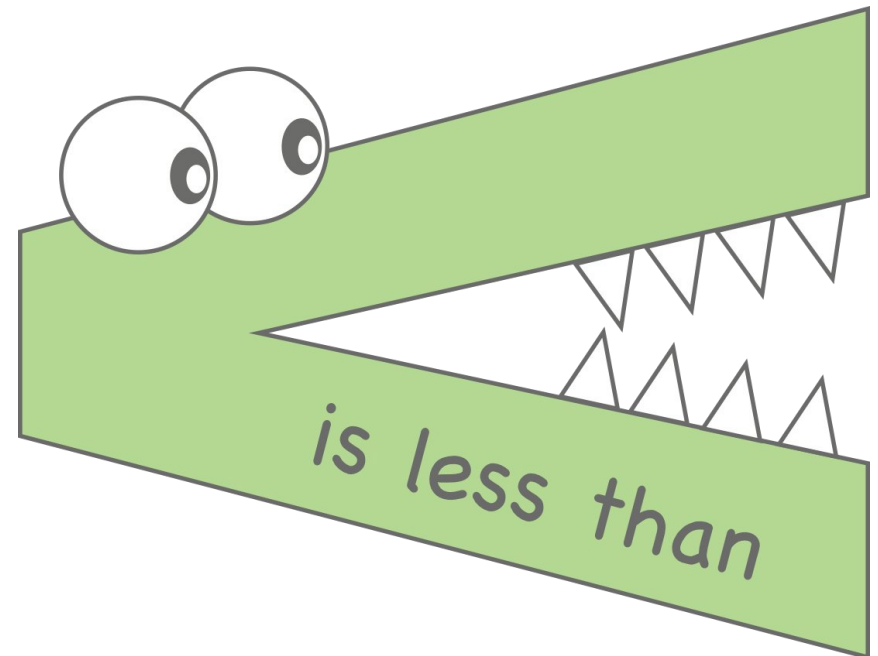
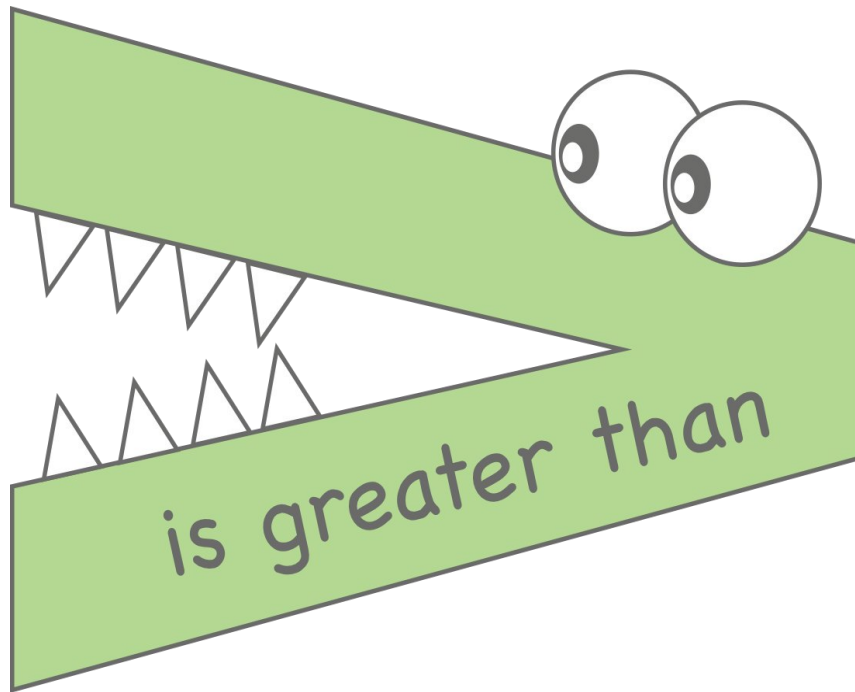


Look at this picture.

The crocodiles seems to be hungry! Let us feed them

Magic things to remember. :)

Whichever side the crocodile's mouth is open it gets to eat more.

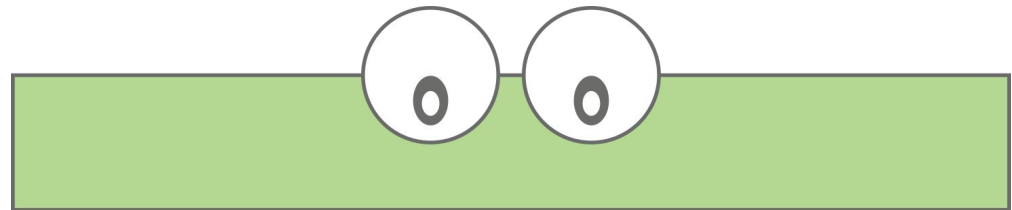


What is the other symbol then?



This is called the equal to sign.

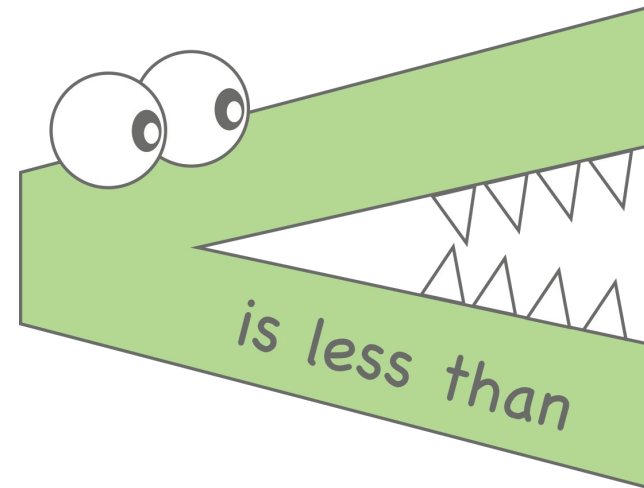
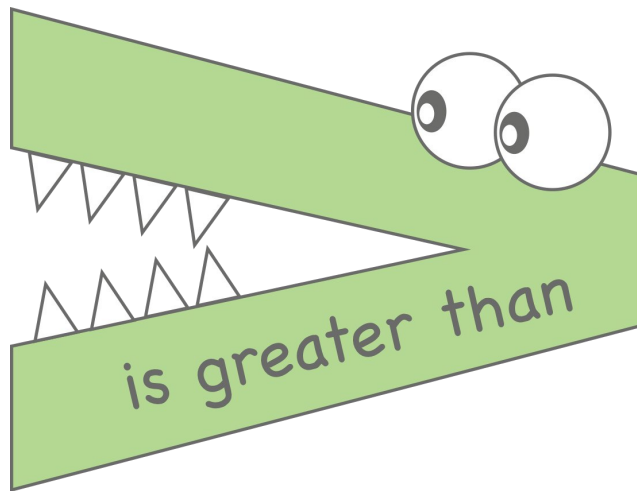
Here is where when both the crocodiles get to eat the same numbers.



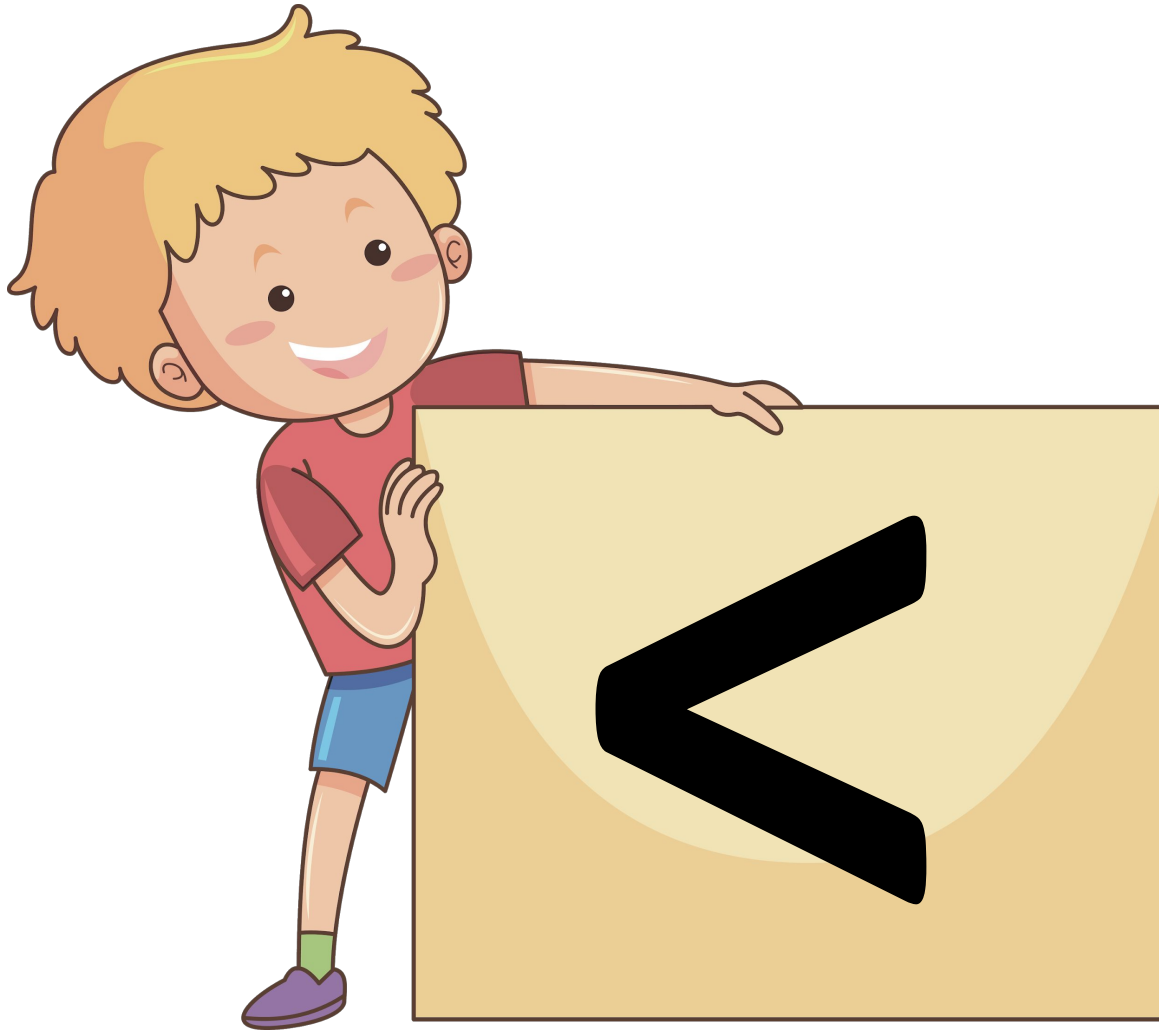
is equal to

Alright! Let us put these to use and see how it works.

Remember whichever side the crocodile's mouth is open it gets to eat bigger numbers.

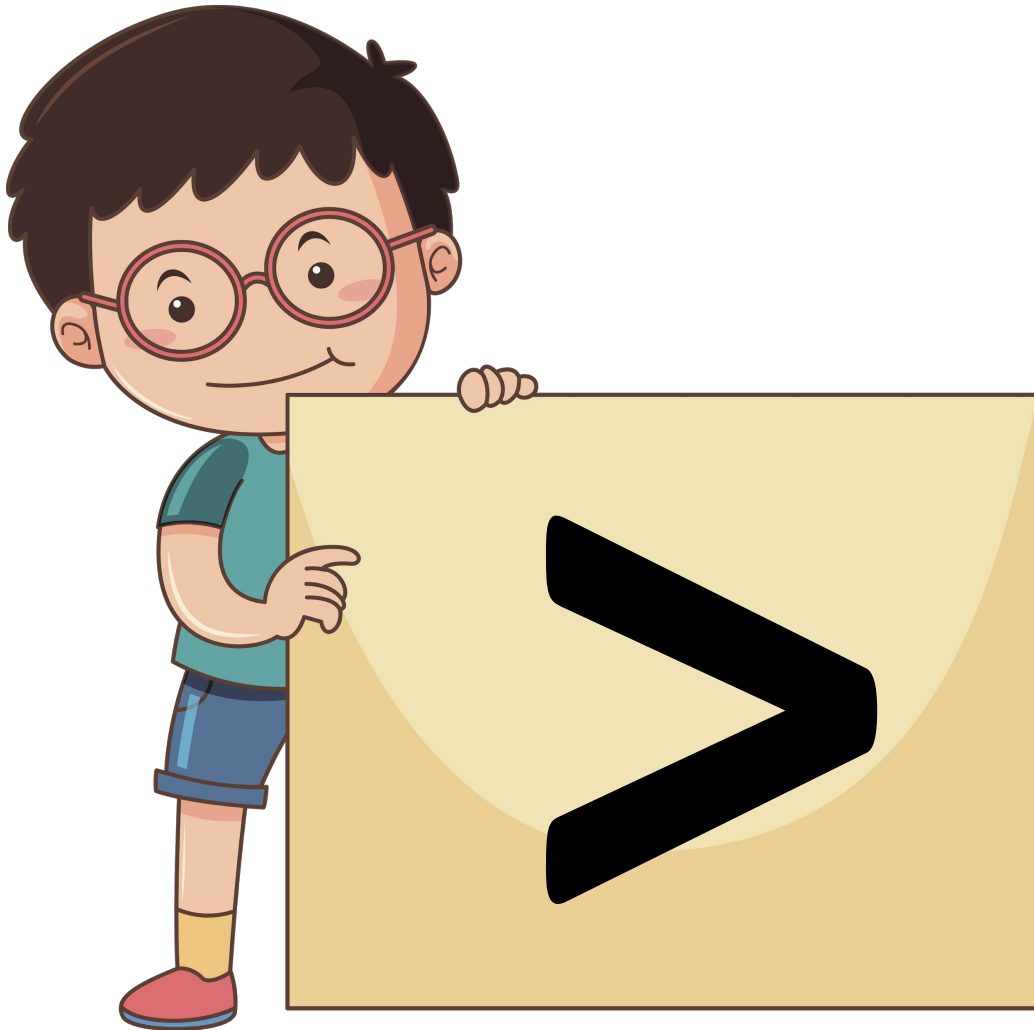


These symbols are always used when two numbers are placed on the left and right sides of the crocodile's mouth.



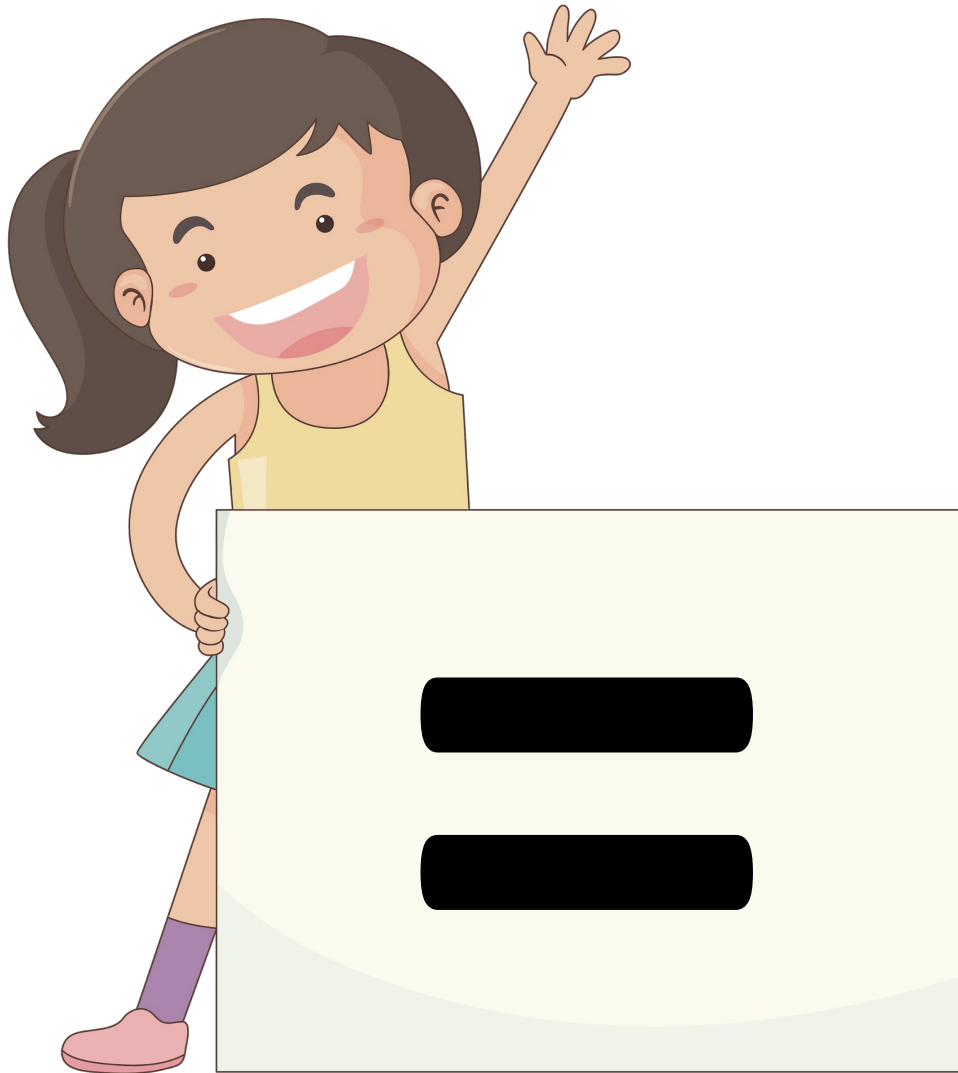
When the left side number is smaller than right side, we use a "less than" sign

Example: **3 < 5**



When the right side number is smaller than left side, we use a "greater than" sign.

Example: **9 > 6**



When two numbers are equal,

we use the "equals" sign

example: **2 = 2**

Got it?

Shall we compare the boxes of rose example with the signs below?



This sign denotes greater than

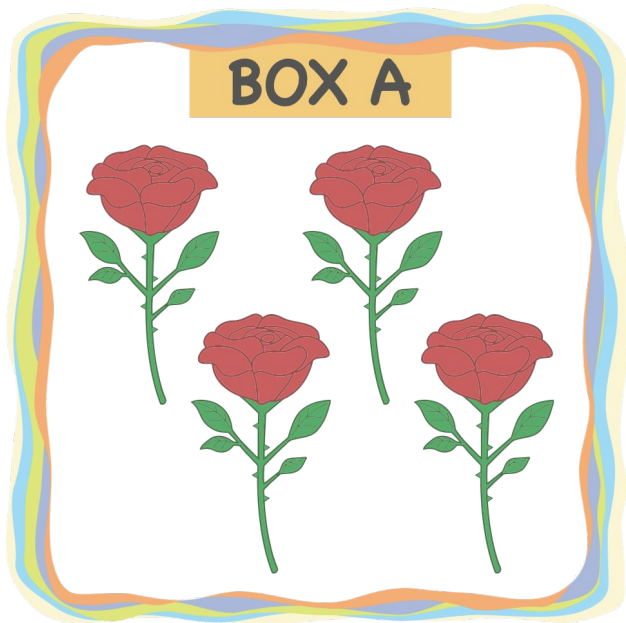


This sign denotes less than

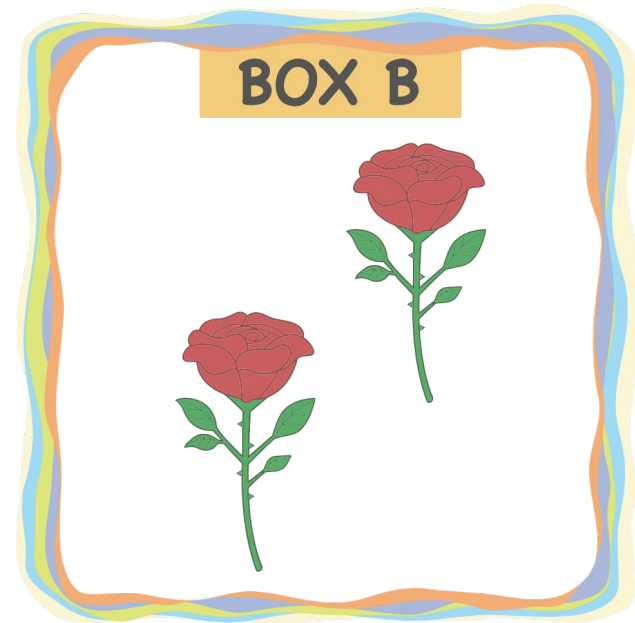


If the numbers are equal, then use this sign

In example 1



4



2



What sign will we use here to compare 4 and 2?

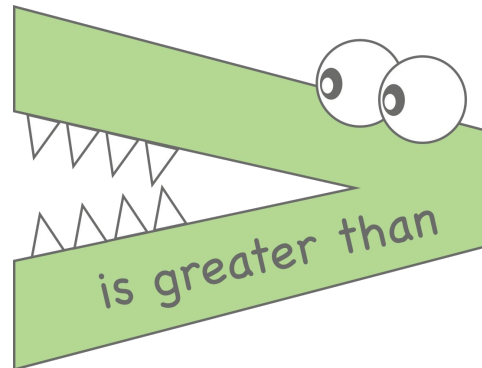
Let us look at the numbers..

Here 4 is a bigger number!
Remember which side the crocodile should open its mouth?

Right! Towards the left, as 4 is bigger than 2.

Therefore, we use greater than sign. That is the mouth is open
towards 4


4



2

In example 2, what sign shall we use here?

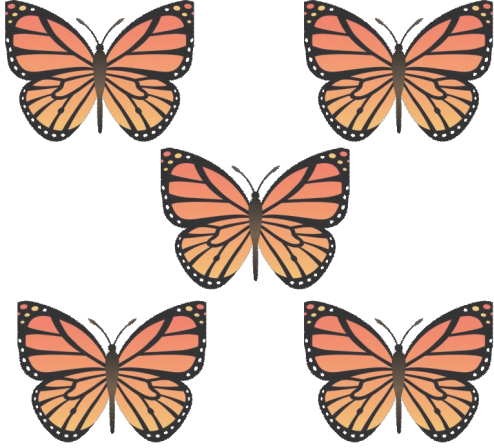
BOX A



1

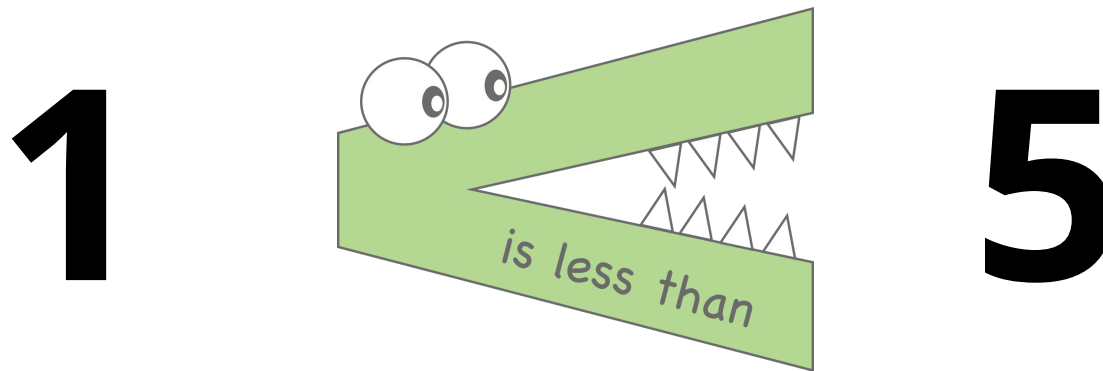


BOX B



5

Here, 1 is small and 5 is bigger



Right! The crocodile gets to eat the bigger number and has turned right!

This is called the lesser than sign. That is 1 is lesser than 5.

Are you ready to do some exercises? Shall we give it a try?

Identify the greater number and circle them. in the first set 7 is greater than 5. So circle 7.

5

7

8

16

22

10

Answers

5

7

8

16

22

10

Shall we Identify the smaller number and circle them?
In the first set, 1 is the smaller number between 13 and 1. So 1 is circled. Can you do the others?

13

1

41

50

28

23

Answers

13

1

41

50

28

23

Looks like you have learnt to find out the greater
and smaller numbers

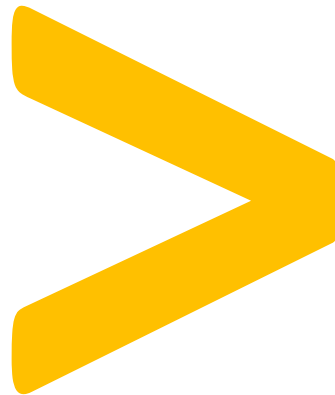
Shall we start comparing them with signs or
symbols?

Let us try a few!

Remember

The opened mouth will always face the greater numbers and
the pointed side will always face smaller numbers

GREATER



SMALLER

Pick the numbers given below and place the numbers in the appropriate place.

First one has been worked out for you

3 and 6

— > —

Place the greater number in the opened mouth side and smaller number in the pointed side. 6 is larger hence it is placed at the open mouth and 3 is placed at the pointed side.

6 > 3

Answers

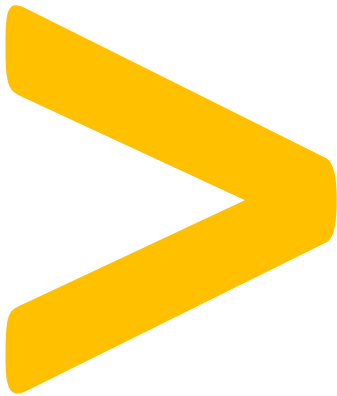
1. $10 > 7$

2. $20 > 16$

3. $30 > 27$

4. $39 > 35$

Was that fun? Now let us learn the names of these symbols



GREATER

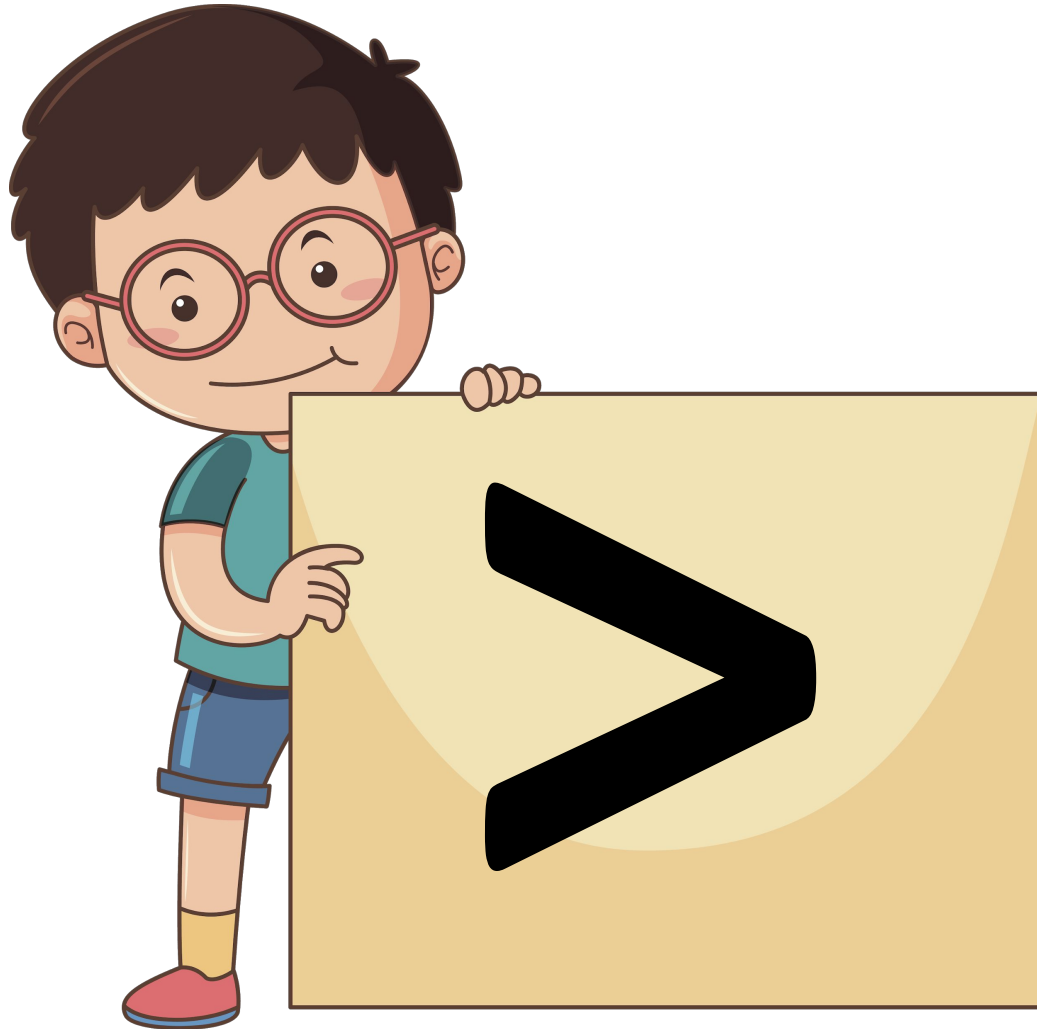


LESSER



EQUAL

Shall we learn how to use them? Remember that the comparison of numbers always happens with the first number

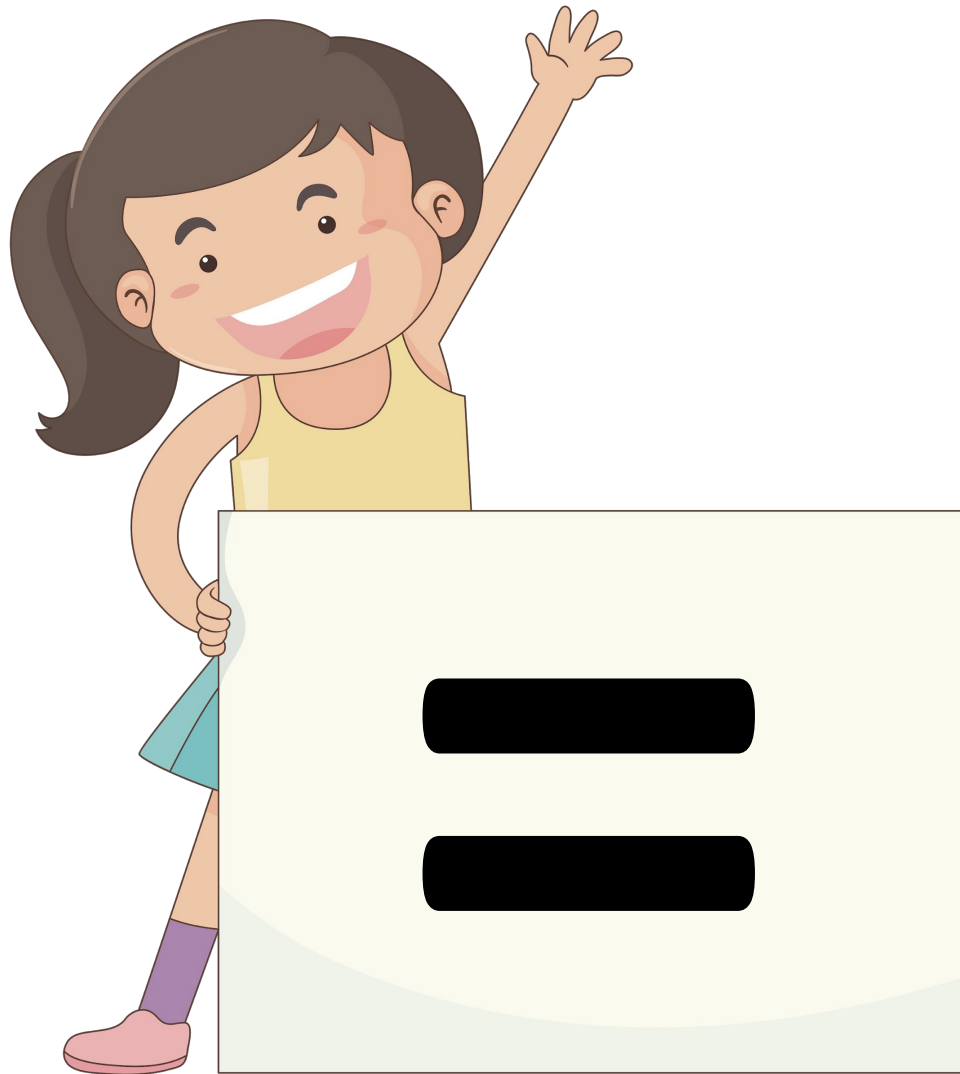


This sign will always be used when the 1st number is greater than the 2nd number

Example

$$5 > 3$$

This is called as 5 is **greater** than 3.



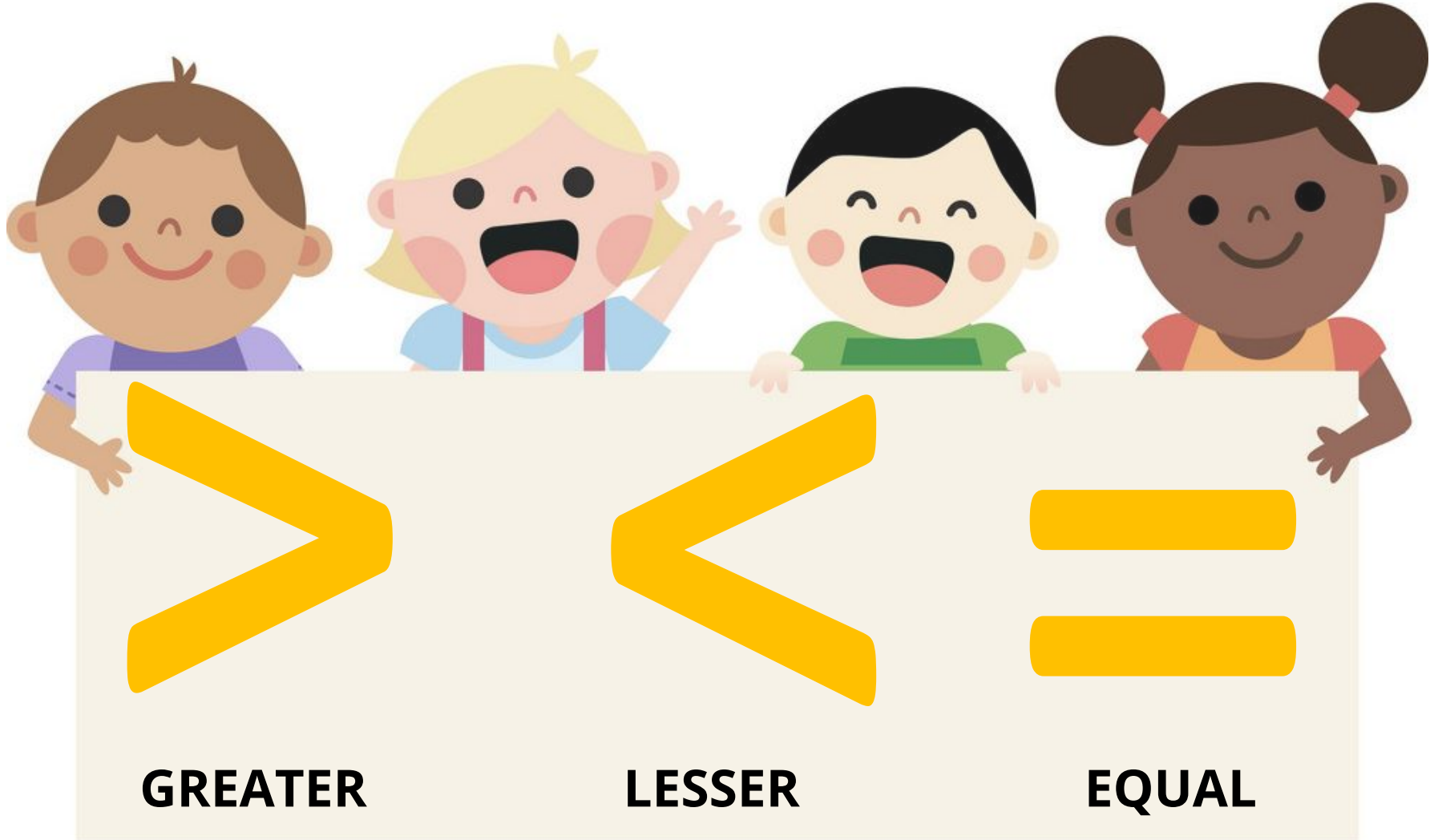
This will always be used when both the numbers are the same.

Example

$$2 = 2$$

We call this as 2 is **equal** to 2.

Shall we repeat these words?



Here are few Worksheets. Try them out!

Use $>$, $<$ or $=$ to compare the numbers

1. 22 $<$ 27

2. 35 45

3. 55 50

4. 40 40

5. 52 13

Answers

1. 22 < 27
2. 35 < 45
3. 55 > 50
4. 40 = 40
5. 52 > 13

Did you enjoy comparing numbers?

Try comparing numbers when you read or listen to newspapers or television

