The language of math is numbers and symbols. Here are some of the symbols you already know: the addition sign +, the subtraction sign -, the multiplication sign x, and the division sign ÷. Today, we are going to look at three more symbols. One you have already used: the equal sign =, and two you may not know yet: the greater than and less than signs > <.

Equals means the same, so the numbers on both sides of the equal sign must be the same amount. For example, all the sums below mean the same.

\[
\begin{align*}
\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet &= \bullet \bullet \bullet \\
\text{OR} \\
4 &= 4, \\
\text{OR} \\
2 + 2 &= 4
\end{align*}
\]

The greater than sign > shows us that the number on the wide side of the sign is bigger than, or more than the number on the pointed side. The less than sign looks the same, but we use it the other way around. In both symbols, the sign points to the smaller number. So, for example:

\[
\begin{align*}
\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet &> \bullet \bullet \\
\text{OR} \\
6 &> 2 \\
\text{OR} \\
3 + 3 &> 2
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\bullet \bullet < \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \\
\text{OR} \\
2 &< 6 \\
\text{OR} \\
2 &< 3 + 3
\end{align*}
\]

It’s easy to remember which is which if we pretend that the bigger number is shooting an arrow at the smaller number.
Math – < > = – Greater Than, Less Than, Equals Questions

A: Use < > and = to compare the number of dogs and cats

Put the correct symbol into the square.

B: Use < > and = to compare the numbers

Fill in the blank spaces:

- 10 _____ 6
- 5 _____ 7
- 2 > _____
- 4 _____ 4
- 8 _____ 2
Math – < > = – Greater Than, Less Than, Equals

Answers

Activity A

1.  

2.  

3.  

4.  

Activity B

- 10 > 6
- 5 < 7
- 2 > 1
- 4 = 4
- 8 > 2