Greater than, less than: answers and notes

What your child practised: saying which of two numbers is greater or less, and using the <, > and = signs to compare numbers up to 100 (Year 2).

Page 1 · Warm up

Ring **9** · **14** · **50** · **72**

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check that the open side of the sign faces the larger number, and = is used only when both numbers are the same.

Page 2 · A. Count the counters

7 > 5 · **4 < 9** · **6 = 6**
10 > 8 · **9 < 10** · **8 > 2**

Page 3 · B. Write the signs

45 **<** 54 · 70 **>** 17 · 38 **=** 38 · 100 **>** 90
12 **<** 21 · 83 **<** 88 · 9 **<** 19 · 66 **>** 60

Page 3 · C. Greatest and smallest

Ring **72**, underline **27**
Ring **51**, underline **15**
Ring **88**, underline **8**

Page 3 · D. Words and signs

46 **<** 64 · 90 **>** 19 · 25 is **greater** than 12

Challenge: No. 15 is **less than** 51, so the correct sentence is **15 < 51** (or 51 > 15). Which number is written first doesn't tell you which is greater: the open side of the sign must face 51.

Watch out for

- **Mixing up < and >.** Ask "Which number is greater?" first, then turn the open side towards it. Reading the sentence aloud from left to right is a good check.
- **Using = for "nearly the same"**, such as 83 = 88. Equal means exactly the same amount.
- **Looking only at one digit**, such as thinking 9 is greater than 19 because 9 is a big digit. Ask "Which comes later when we count?"
- **Saying the sign's name wrong.** "8 > 3" is read "8 is greater than 3", from left to right.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Arm signs:** say two numbers. Your child makes < or > with their arms, the open side towards the greater number.
- **Door numbers:** on a walk, compare two house numbers: "Is 34 greater or less than 43?"
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Tens & Ones, shows how to compare two-digit numbers by looking at the tens first.