

Greater than, less than with tens and ones

introduction

1 The sign points its small end at the smaller number

Place the number cards 12 and 33 down with a gap between them. Ask which is bigger.

"Here are two numbers, twelve and thirty-three. Which one is bigger?"

Place the less-than sign card between them. Name the two ends: the wide open end faces the bigger number, the pointed end faces the smaller number.

"The wide, open side always faces the bigger number. The pointy end always faces the smaller number."

Try it the other way round — place 90 and 17 down, bigger number first, and choose the matching sign card.

"Ninety is bigger, seventeen is smaller. The wide side faces ninety, the point faces seventeen."

Place two equal numbers, 25 and 25. Introduce the equals sign card for when neither is bigger.

"Twenty-five and twenty-five are the same. Neither one is bigger, so we use the equals sign instead."

Try a trickier pair where the tens digit is the same but the ones digit decides it — 45 and 46.

"Both have four tens, so look at the ones. Six ones is more than five ones — forty-six is bigger."

Show a common mistake: placing the sign card backwards, with the wide end facing the smaller number. Check it: does the wide end really face the bigger number?

"I placed the wide end facing twelve and the point facing thirty-three. But thirty-three is bigger — the wide end should face thirty-three instead."

Number cards — demonstration

12	33	90	17
25	45	46	

Sign cards — demonstration

