

Compare Whole Numbers

Which number is greater, 3,491 or 3,487?

| PERIOD | THOUSANDS | | | ONES | | |
|--------|-----------|------|------|----------|------|------|
| Place | HUNDREDS | TENS | ONES | HUNDREDS | TENS | ONES |
| | | | 3 | 4 | 9 | 1 |
| | | | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 |

We start comparing from left to right

In the thousands period the ones have the same digit

In the ones period the hundreds have the same digit

In the ones period the tens have different digits

$$9 > 8 \Rightarrow 3,491 > 3,487$$

THINK: 8 tens < 9 tens
3,487 < 3,491.

To compare two numbers:

STEP 1: Write one number under the other.

STEP 2: Compare the digits, beginning with the greatest place-value position.

STEP 3: Circle the first digits that are different.

Compare, Use < or >.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1) \ 627 \\ \quad 637 \end{array}$$

$$627 < 637$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2) \ 3,296 \\ \quad 3,285 \end{array}$$

$$3,296 > 3,285$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3) \ 25,616 \\ \quad 24,318 \end{array}$$

$$25,616 > 24,318$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 4) \ 314,619 \\ \quad 312,629 \end{array}$$

$$314,619 > 312,629$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 5) \ 2,400 \\ \quad 3,200 \end{array}$$

$$2,400 < 3,200$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6) \ 45,225 \\ \quad 44,988 \end{array}$$

$$45,225 > 44,988$$