

Comparing 3-digit numbers

When we compare numbers we use symbols that represent more than ($>$), less than ($<$) and equal to ($=$). We start by looking at the hundreds column. We see which digit is higher and then if we can make a choice from that we put in the correct symbol. If not, we move onto the tens column until one of the digits is higher or lower. For example:

Use $<$, $>$ or $=$ to make the statement correct.

| | |
|-------|-------|
| H T O | H T O |
| 1 5 6 | 3 2 1 |

We can see that the first number has 1 hundred and the second number has 3 hundred therefore the second number is bigger.

To know which symbol to use, remember that the **BIGGEST** number goes in the **BIGGEST** space!

$$156 < 321$$

Guided Practice

Use $<$, $>$ or $=$ to make the statements correct.

399 ○ 501

800 ○ 80 tens

Draw in base 10 if you need help

Independent Practice

Circle the greatest number in each pair.

Nine hundred and two 920

500 and 63 568

7 hundreds and 6 ones 76 tens

Complete the statements.

$$600 + 70 + 4 > 600 + \underline{\quad\quad} + 4$$

$$\text{Two hundred and five} < \underline{\quad\quad\quad\quad\quad}$$