

Comparing and Ordering Numbers

Chapter 1: A Day at the Beach · Topic 2

Key Concept

To compare two-digit numbers, we first look at the tens digit - the number with the bigger tens digit is greater. If the tens digits are the same, we compare the ones digit.

For example, comparing 34 and 56: 5 tens is bigger than 3 tens, so 56 is greater than 34. But comparing 42 and 45: both have 4 tens, so we compare ones - 5 is bigger than 2, so 45 is greater.

We use symbols like '>' (greater than), '<' (less than), and '=' (equal to) to show comparisons quickly, like $56 > 34$.

Ordering numbers means arranging several numbers from smallest to largest or largest to smallest, which we do by comparing them one pair at a time.

Quick Revision Notes

- Compare tens digits first when comparing two-digit numbers.
- If tens digits are equal, compare ones digits.
- 56 is greater than 34 because 5 tens is more than 3 tens.
- '>' means greater than, '<' means less than, '=' means equal.
- Ordering means arranging numbers smallest to largest or reverse.
- We compare numbers pair by pair to order them.
- The tens digit matters more than the ones digit.
- 42 and 45 have the same tens but different ones digits.

Practice Questions

- 1 Compare 27 and 72 using the correct symbol.
- 2 Order the numbers 34, 8, 61 from smallest to largest.
- 3 Compare two-digit numbers of your family members' ages.
- 4 Write three number comparisons using '>' or '<'.
- 5 Order five random two-digit numbers.
- 6 Explain why 90 is greater than 89.