

Comparing 3-Digit Numbers

Chapter 1: What's in a Name? · Topic 2

Key Concept

To compare two 3-digit numbers, we first compare the hundreds digit - the number with the bigger hundreds digit is greater, regardless of the other digits.

If the hundreds digits are the same, we compare the tens digits next, and if those are also the same, we compare the ones digits.

For example, comparing 452 and 398: 4 hundreds is more than 3 hundreds, so 452 is greater than 398, even though 398 has a bigger tens digit.

This step-by-step method (hundreds, then tens, then ones) works for comparing any numbers and becomes especially useful as numbers get bigger.

Quick Revision Notes

- Compare hundreds digit first.
- If hundreds are equal, compare tens.
- If tens are equal, compare ones.
- $452 > 398$ because 4 hundreds is more than 3 hundreds.
- The hundreds digit matters most in 3-digit comparisons.
- This method works for any size number.
- Comparing step-by-step avoids mistakes.
- Bigger hundreds digit always means a bigger number.

Practice Questions

- 1 Compare 623 and 632 using the correct method.
- 2 Order the numbers 145, 451, 415 from smallest to largest.
- 3 Compare two random 3-digit numbers and explain your reasoning.
- 4 Write three number comparisons using ' $>$ ' or ' $<$ '.
- 5 Find two 3-digit numbers in a newspaper and compare them.
- 6 Explain why hundreds digit matters most.