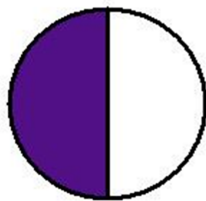


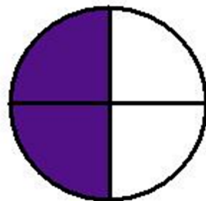
## 2.1 Comparing Fractions

**GOAL**

Compare and order fractions using benchmarks and equivalent fractions.



$\frac{1}{2}$



$\frac{2}{4}$

### 1. Lowest Terms

- An **equivalent** fraction where the **numerator** and **denominator** have no common factors other than 1.

- Ex.  $\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$

### 2. Converting to Lowest Terms

- 2 Options:

**Option 1:** Guess & Test

- Guess a number that might be a factor of the **numerator** and **denominator**.

- Attempt to divide the **numerator** and **denominator** by that number.

- Keep going until you are confident there are no other numbers.

- Ex. Convert to lowest terms:

$$\frac{6}{9}$$

$$\frac{15}{35}$$

$$\frac{24}{32}$$

**Option 2:** Find the GCF

- Find the GCF of the **numerator** and **denominator**.
- Divide the **numerator** and **denominator** by the GCF.

- Ex. Convert to lowest terms.

$$\frac{8}{18}$$

$$\frac{36}{48}$$

### 3. Comparing Fractions

- Find the **lowest common multiple** (LCM) of the **denominators**.
- Rewrite the fractions into equivalent fractions using the **LCM** as a common denominator.  
**REMEMBER:** What you do to the top (numerator), you do to the bottom (denominator).
- Compare numerators.

- Ex. Write each pair of fractions as equivalent fractions with a common denominator.

$$\frac{1}{3} \text{ and } \frac{2}{5}$$

Practice

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