Ordering decimals

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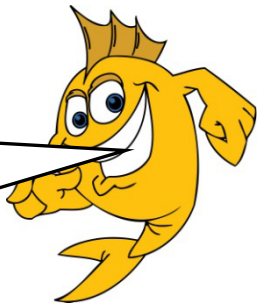
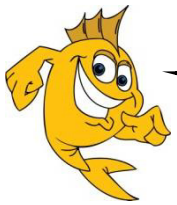
Ordering decimals can be pretty tricky. At first glance we might say that 0.505 is bigger than 0.51 because there are more digits, but it doesn't work like that! Have a look at my step by step method of ordering decimals.



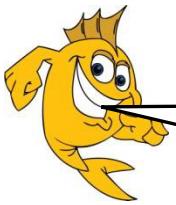
Put these decimals in order, starting with the largest:

0.06 1.1 0.61 0.9



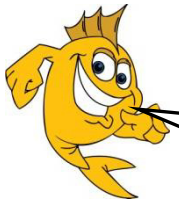
Step 1: Put the numbers in a table, making sure the decimal points line up underneath each other, like this:

U	.	t	h
0	.	0	6
1	.	1	
0	.	6	1
0	.	9	



Step 2: Fill in the empty squares with zeros, making them all the same length.

U	.	t	h
0	.	0	6
1	.	1	**0**
0	.	6	1
0	.	9	**0**



Step 3: Compare, starting with the first column (units) and writing the numbers in order.

There is a 1 in the units. All the rest are zeros, so this must be the largest number: 1.1 (or 1.10)

There is a 9 in the tenths column so 0.9 is the second largest largest: 1.1 0.9

There is a 6 in the tenths so that is next: 1.1 0.9 0.61

Which just leaves the smallest number 0.06, so the final order is:

1.1 0.9 0.61 0.06

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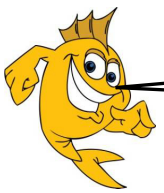

Put these decimals in order, starting with the largest. Use the columns to help you.

1. 0.7 1.7 0.71 0.17

1. ....

U	.	t	h
	.		
	.		
	.		
	.		

2. 1.3 0.13 3.01 3.13

2. ....

U	.	t	h
	.		
	.		
	.		
	.		

3. 0.4 2.4 0.41 2.14

3. ....

U	.	t	h
	.		
	.		
	.		
	.		

4. 0.1 0.01 1.01 1.1

4. ....

U	.	t	h
	.		
	.		
	.		
	.		

5. 2.3 3.02 2.03 3.2

5. ....

U	.	t	h
	.		
	.		
	.		
	.		

6. 0.55 5.5 5.05 0.5

6. ....

U	.	t	h
	.		
	.		
	.		
	.		

Answers

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1. 1.7 0.71 0.7 0.17
2. 3.13 3.01 1.3 0.13
3. 2.4 2.14 0.41 0.4
4. 1.1 1.01 0.1 0.01
5. 3.2 3.02 2.3 2.03
6. 5.5 5.05 0.55 0.5