ORDERING POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE FRACTIONS

If the numerators of two fractions are the same, the smallest fraction is the one with the biggest denominator, as it has been divided up into the most pieces.

For example: $\frac{1}{7} < \frac{1}{2}$

If the denominators of two fractions are the same, the smallest fraction is the one with the smallest numerator.

For example: $\frac{3}{10} < \frac{7}{10}$

ORDERING POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE FRACTIONS

To order two fractions with different numerators and denominators, we need to convert one to an equivalent fraction with a denominator equal to the other one.

Place the following fractions in ascending order.

a $\frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5}, \frac{2}{3}$

SOLUTION

a $\frac{45}{60}, \frac{48}{60}, \frac{40}{60}$

$\frac{40}{60}, \frac{45}{60}, \frac{48}{60}$

$\frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5}$

EXPLANATION

LCD of 3, 4 and 5 is 60. Produce equivalent fractions with denominator of 60.

Order fractions in ascending order.

Rewrite fractions back in original form.

ORDERING POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE FRACTIONS

Place the following fractions in ascending order.

b $1\frac{3}{5}, \frac{7}{4}, \frac{3}{2}, 2\frac{1}{4}, \frac{11}{5}$

b $\frac{8}{5}, \frac{7}{4}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{9}{4}, \frac{11}{5}$	Express all fractions as improper fractions.
$\frac{32}{20}, \frac{35}{20}, \frac{30}{20}, \frac{45}{20}, \frac{44}{20}$	LCD of 2, 4 and 5 is 20. Produce equivalent fractions with a denominator of 20.
$\frac{30}{20}, \frac{32}{20}, \frac{35}{20}, \frac{44}{20}, \frac{45}{20}$	Order fractions in ascending order.
$\frac{3}{2}, 1\frac{3}{5}, \frac{7}{4}, \frac{11}{5}, 2\frac{1}{4}$	Rewrite fractions back in original form.

ORDERING POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE FRACTIONS

Ascending order is when numbers are ordered from smallest to largest.

Example: 1,2,3,4,5,6

Descending order is when numbers are ordered from largest to smallest.

Example: 6,5,4,3,2,1