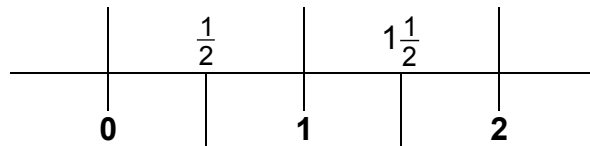


What are mixed numbers?

A number like $1\frac{1}{2}$ is called a mixed number because it is a mix of a whole number and a fraction.

The whole number part is 1.

The fraction part is $\frac{1}{2}$.



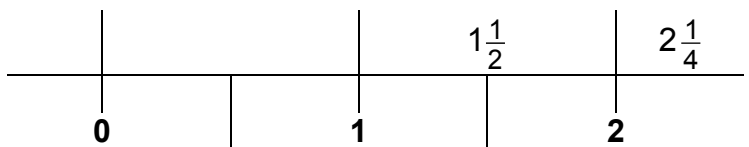
Here are some more examples of mixed numbers: $2\frac{7}{8}$, $6\frac{2}{3}$, $10\frac{3}{4}$, $33\frac{1}{3}$, $99\frac{9}{10}$.

Comparing mixed numbers

When you compare the size of two mixed numbers the first things to check are the whole number parts. If one has a smaller whole number part than the other then it is the smaller number.

For example, $1\frac{1}{2}$ is less than $2\frac{1}{4}$ because 1 is less than 2.

When the whole number parts are the same you need to check the fraction parts.

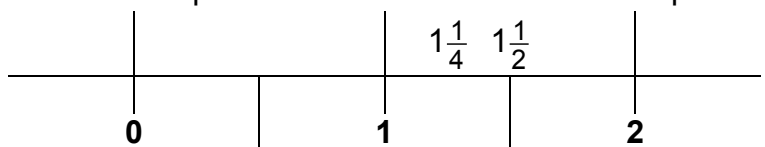


Example

Which is smaller, $1\frac{1}{4}$ or $1\frac{1}{2}$?

Both are mixed numbers. First compare the whole number parts. Both have a whole number part of 1. So you need to compare the fraction parts.

$\frac{1}{4}$ is less than $\frac{1}{2}$, so $1\frac{1}{4}$ is less than $1\frac{1}{2}$.

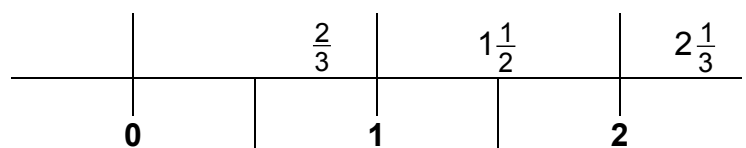


When you compare fractions with mixed numbers the fractions have no whole number part, so they are smaller than the mixed numbers.

Example

Put these in order, smallest first:

$2\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{2}{3}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$.



The smallest is $\frac{2}{3}$ because the others have whole number parts.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ is smaller than $2\frac{1}{3}$ because it has a smaller whole number part.

So the correct order, smallest first, is $\frac{2}{3}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $2\frac{1}{3}$.