Dimensions Math
**Grade 3 Letter Home**
Chapter 9 Fractions

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Home Connection

In this chapter, your child will review the term "fractions" as numbers that count equally divided parts of the whole. They will also learn the terms "numerator," "denominator," and "unit fraction." The "denominator" is the number of parts a whole is divided into. The "numerator" is the number of those parts being counted. A "unit fraction" is a fraction with a numerator of 1. In the fraction ¾, one whole is divided into 4 parts. Each part is the unit fraction ¼. If we count 3 such parts, we count 3 one-fourths. That is, we have 3 fourths, which is written as ¾.

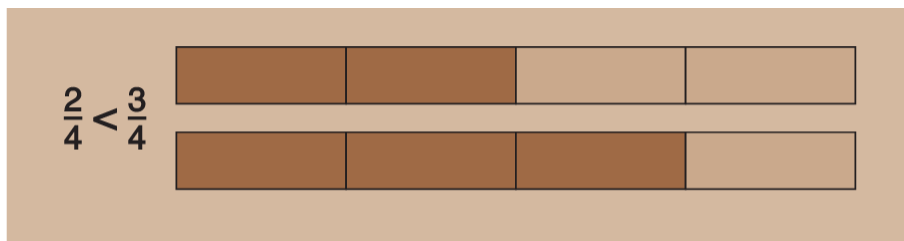Number lines are a helpful tool when looking at fractions greater than 1. The distance between each fraction on a number line is a unit fraction. ¾ is 3 counts of ¼ unit.
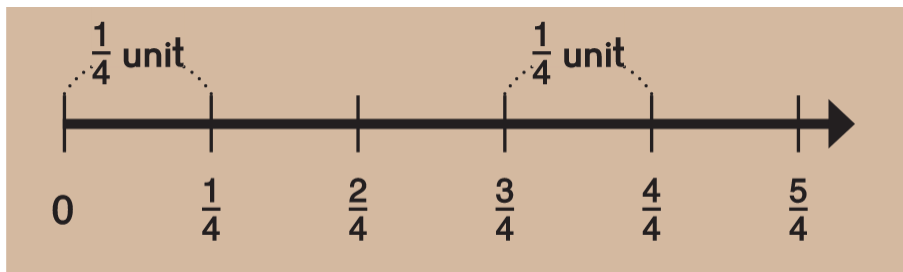
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Your child will begin comparing fractions with common denominators. Because the numerator counts the number of parts, it is easy to compare fractions with the same denominator.

Comparing fractions with common numerators and unlike denominators can be confusing at first. Through recognizing that although the number in the denominator is greater, the size of the piece is smaller, your child will develop critical understanding of denominators and thus be able to compare the fractions.

$$\frac{3}{4} > \frac{3}{7}$$
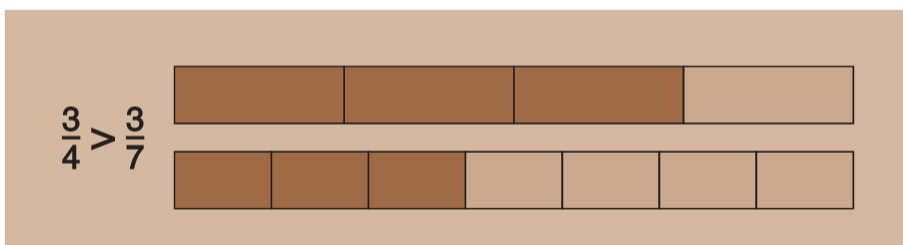
In chapter 10 your child will continue to work with fractions and use other strategies to compare them.

What can we do at home?

- **Show Me** (practice making 1 whole with fractions)
    - Materials: paper and pencil
    - Say a fraction and have your child give you the fraction that goes with it to make a whole.
    - Say for example, "We are finding fractions that make 1. My part is $\frac{3}{5}$. What is your part?" Your child answers, " $\frac{2}{5}$." If this is difficult draw the fraction on paper to help develop greater understanding.
- Cooking is a great way to use fractions in real life. While you cook try to include the terminology of numerator and denominator and compare the size of the various measuring cups. If you are up for a challenge, try doubling a recipe.
- Continue to practice multiplication and division of 6, 7, 8, and 9.
    - Skip counting by 6, 7, 8, and 9 is very helpful.
    - **Leftovers** is a great way to practice division. Directions and a video are located on the TCA website. https://www.tcatitans.org/Domain/200
    - **Multiplication War** is a fun way to practice multiplication. Directions and a video are also located on the TCA website. https://www.tcatitans.org/Domain/200 Be sure to scroll down to the Multiplication and Divisions folder.