

KEY

Notes

Example: Order the following numbers in ascending order.

$$\pi, 315\%, \frac{21}{6}, 2\sqrt{5}, 3.145 \times 10^{-1}$$

least to greatest

Step	Why do it?	Example
Convert all numbers to decimal form	To make them easier to compare	$\pi \approx 3.14159\dots$ $315\% = 3.15$ $\frac{21}{6} = 3.5$ $2\sqrt{5} \approx 4.4721\dots$ $3.145 \times 10^{-1} = 0.3145$
Line up the decimal points	To compare numbers with the same place value easier	$3.14159\dots$ 3.15 3.5 $4.4721\dots$ 0.3145
Compare digits left to right	To see how the numbers compare to other numbers in the group	$3.14159\dots$ 2 nd smallest 3.15 3 rd smallest 3.5 4 th smallest $4.4721\dots$ largest 0.3145 smallest
Write the #s in the required order in the ORIGINAL FORM	To be sure you answered the question correctly	Least \longrightarrow Greatest $3.145 \times 10^{-1}; \pi; 315\%; \frac{21}{6}; 2\sqrt{5}$

Vocabulary

\uparrow Lowest to Highest
 Ascending
 Increasing
 Least to greatest

Highest to Lowest
 \downarrow
 Descending
 Decreasing
 Greatest to least

$=$ means the same value as
 \approx means approximately