

3.21

Comparing Three Fractions

• Example 1

Order the fractions $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{3}{5}$, and $\frac{5}{6}$ from least to greatest.

The least common multiple of 3, 5, and 6 is 30.

$$\frac{2}{3} = \frac{20}{30}, \frac{3}{5} = \frac{18}{30}, \text{ and } \frac{5}{6} = \frac{25}{30}$$

We now order according to the numerators:

$$\frac{18}{30} < \frac{20}{30} < \frac{25}{30}, \text{ or, equivalently, } \frac{3}{5} < \frac{2}{3} < \frac{5}{6}.$$

● ● ● CHECK YOURSELF 1

Order the fractions $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{5}$, and $\frac{3}{8}$ from least to greatest.

● ● ● CHECK YOURSELF ANSWER

1. $\frac{1}{4} < \frac{3}{8} < \frac{2}{5}.$

3.21 Exercises

Name _____

Section _____

Date _____

A N S W E R S

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

Order the given fractions from least to greatest.

1. $\frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}$

2. $\frac{7}{12}, \frac{5}{18}, \frac{1}{3}$

3. $\frac{11}{12}, \frac{4}{5}, \frac{5}{6}$

4. $\frac{5}{8}, \frac{9}{16}, \frac{13}{32}$

5. $\frac{5}{8}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{2}{3}$

6. $\frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{5}{12}$

7. $\frac{4}{5}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{8}{9}$

8. $\frac{3}{7}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{1}{3}$

9. $\frac{3}{4}, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{11}{16}$

10. $\frac{7}{11}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{1}{2}$

11. $\frac{7}{8}, \frac{11}{12}, \frac{15}{16}$

12. $\frac{3}{8}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{5}{16}$