

# FRACTION BENCHMARKS: Sequence Overview

## Summary of learning goals

This sequence emphasises that fractions are numbers and develops students' understanding of the relative size of fractions. Students build their fractional sense through determining if fractions are closest to 0,  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 1.

**Australian Curriculum: Mathematics (Year 6)**

**ACMNA125:** Compare fractions with related denominators and locate and represent them on a number line.

## Summary of lessons

### Who is this Sequence for?

This sequence is designed for students who are familiar with working with fractions with varied denominators. They should recognise that a fraction represents a ratio.

### Lesson 1: Closest To...

Students are presented with a collection of fractions on cards. Students work with a partner to sort the fractions according to whether they are closer to 0,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , or 1. They justify the reasons for their decisions.

### Lesson 2: In Between...

Students use the fraction cards from the previous lesson to play a game in pairs. One student takes a random fraction card and then determines whether the fraction is closest to 0,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , or 1. The second student then needs to name a fraction that is in between the fraction on the card and the identified benchmark number.

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We value your feedback after these lessons via our website.

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## Reflection on this sequence

### Rationale

A fraction is a number that can be placed on a number line. Students require opportunities to consider the relative size of these numbers to build their fractional sense. Using benchmarks such as 0,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 allow students to build mental strategies to determine the size of fractions. Such skills are critical to estimation and approximation in later calculations with fractions.

### reSolve Mathematics is Purposeful

- Students work with fractions as numbers and build strategies for determining the relative size of fractions.
- They recognise similarities and differences between fractions and whole numbers.

### reSolve Tasks are Inclusive and Challenging

- Visual imagery and choice of specific fractions make this task accessible to the different learning needs of students.

### reSolve Classrooms Have a Knowledge Building Culture

- Students share their reasoning as they work collaboratively to solve tasks. As they discuss ideas and thinking they support fellow students to develop strategies and understandings.