

Units & Systems

Comparing Items Beyond “Bigger” and “Smaller”

Younger students compare objects by looking at them and saying something like, “The dog is bigger than the cat.” While there is nothing wrong with this, students must be capable of making comparisons that provide more information before they enter high school.

The potato is bigger than the beet.



Tori, 2nd Grade

The mass of the potato is 5.1 ounces greater than the mass of the beet.

Charlie, 7th Grade

The milk jug holds more than the soda can.



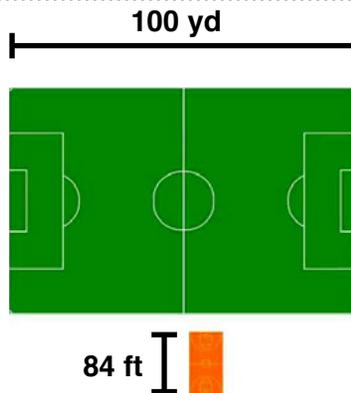
Adonis, 2nd Grade

The milk jug's capacity is 64 fluid ounces. It holds much more than the soda can, which holds 12 fluid ounces.

Rafael, 7th Grade

Try filling in these blanks:

The soccer field is _____ than the basketball court.



Cherise, 2nd Grade

Playing areas are different in soccer and basketball. A soccer field has a _____ of 100 yards, and a basketball court is only 84 feet long..

Ivana, 7th Grade

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Making Simple and Complex Comparisons

the property of the items being compared

12.1 oz.

7 oz.

a quantity

The mass of the potato is about 5 ounces greater than the beet's

a unit that works for the items being compared

TIP:

Try to mention a property, a quantity, and a **unit** when making comparisons in science.

Now it's your turn to do the same type of exercise that you read on the previous page. Analyze the image on each line. On the left is a comparison as a young child might say it. On the right, fill in the blanks to create a more complex comparison that would be appropriate for a student who is near high school age.

It's longer to El Paso than to Texarkana.

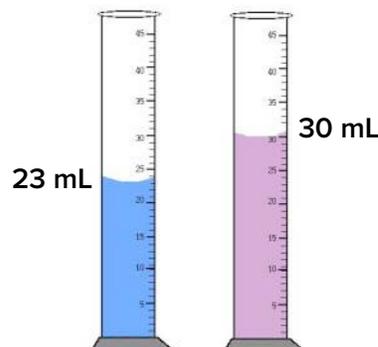


The _____ to El Paso from Austin is 200 _____ greater than the distance to Texarkana.

Franklin, 2nd Grade

You, 7th Grade

The containers have different amounts.



The volume of the liquid on the left is _____ mL less than the one on the right.

Lily, 2nd Grade

You, 7th Grade

Bonus! Both cylinders have the same _____.