Finding numbers on a number line

How do you find a number on a number line? Which of two numbers is bigger?

WORDS TO KNOW

Number line: a ruler for numbers.

Mark: a short line across the number line.

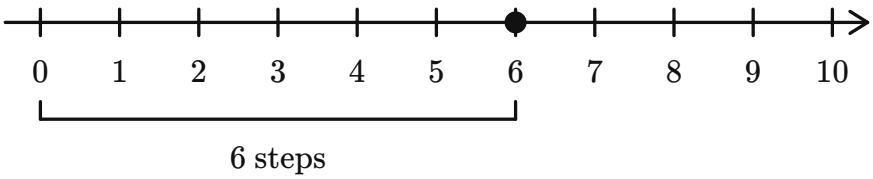
Label: a number written under a mark.

KEY IDEAS

1. Each mark is one more

The spaces between marks are all the same size. Each mark is one more than the mark on its left. To get from 0 to 6, you take 6 steps.

> Step right: one more. Step left: one less.



2. Count marks from a label

Some marks have no label. Start at a label and count the marks. This line starts at 80, not 0. That is fine. Count on: 81, 82, 83, 84, 85.

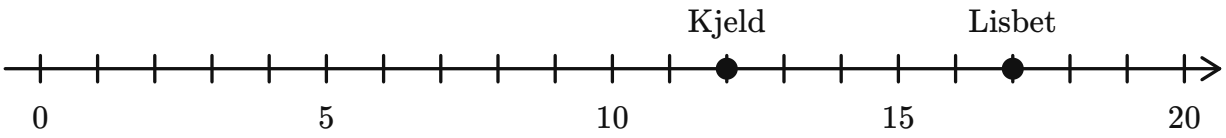
> Start at the nearest label. Count one number for each mark.



3. Further right is bigger

Lisbet's car stopped at 17, and Kjeld's at 12. 17 is further right, so it is bigger.

> The number further right is bigger.



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WATCH OUT

- **Do not count the mark you start on.** From 0 to 6 is 6 steps, not 7.
- **Count back to go left.** To the left, each mark is one less.
- **A number goes on a mark.** Never put it in a space between marks.

WORKED EXAMPLES

> **Example 1. A line has a mark for each number. Only 100 and 110 have labels. Where does 104 go?**
>
> 1. Start at the label 100.
> 2. Count marks to the right: 101, 102, 103, 104.
>
> **Answer:** 104 is the fourth mark after 100. **Check:** count back from 110: 109, 108, 107, 106, 105, 104. You land on the same mark.

> **Example 2. Which is bigger, 95 or 105?**
>
> 1. Think of a line with 100 in the middle.
> 2. 95 is five marks to the left of 100.
> 3. 105 is five marks to the right of 100.
> 4. 105 is further right.
>
> **Answer:** 105 is bigger.

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