Answers and talk notes

Understand Ratios

What your student is learning

Tonight we learn to write a ratio. A ratio is a way to compare two amounts, like 3 cups of apple juice to 2 cups of sparkling water.

Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **B.** 4:3. The ratio of red to green is 4:3. Red is named first, so 4 is written first.
2. **A.** 5:2. 5 to 2 can be written 5:2 with a colon. The order stays the same.
3. **D.** 6:10. There are 6 + 4 = 10 players in all, so girls to all players is 6:10.
4. **C.** For every 2 cats there are 5 dogs. For every 2 cats there are 5 dogs. Cats are named first, so 2 goes with cats.
5. **C.** 3:5. There are 3 + 2 = 5 parts in all, so juice to the whole drink is 3:5.

Talk about it

Which kind did you name first, and how does the order change what the ratio says?

Home mission

Mix a tiny punch at the table: 3 spoons of juice for every 2 spoons of water. Ask your student: what is the ratio of juice to water? Juice to the whole drink? Now switch the order. What would 2:3 taste like?

When they are stuck, ask

- Which amount is named first? Let's write that number first.
- Are we comparing one group to another group, or one group to the total?
- Read it out loud. What two things are being compared?

Try not to say

- The order does not matter, just write the two numbers.
- Just one number, like "12 cookies," is a ratio.
- Add the two numbers together to get the ratio.