Answers and talk notes

Write and Represent Inequalities

What your student is learning

Tonight we write inequalities. An inequality compares two amounts with the signs <, >, ≤, or ≥, when many values are allowed instead of just one.

Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **C.** ≥. ≥ means at least, which is greater than or equal to.
2. **A.** x < 7. x < 7 means x is less than 7.
3. **B.** p ≤ 5. p ≤ 5, because exactly 5 people are allowed and fewer is fine too.
4. **D.** h ≥ 48. h ≥ 48, because 48 inches and taller are allowed.
5. **B.** n is more than 10. n is more than 10 matches n > 10.
6. **C.** 6. 6 makes x ≥ 6 true, because 6 is equal to 6.

Talk about it

Which words in the sign tell you the symbol? Does the limit number itself fit?

Home mission

Gather some cups. Say: "I need at least 6 cups on the table." Would 6 cups work? 5? 9? Then write c ≥ 6 together.

When they are stuck, ask

- What is the key phrase — 'at least,' 'at most,' 'more than,' or 'fewer than'?
- Is the exact number allowed? That tells us if we use the line under the symbol.
- Can you name two numbers that would fit this rule?

Try not to say

- 'At least 18' means more than 18, so use >.
- An inequality has just one answer, like an equation.
- The symbols < and > mean the same as ≤ and ≥.