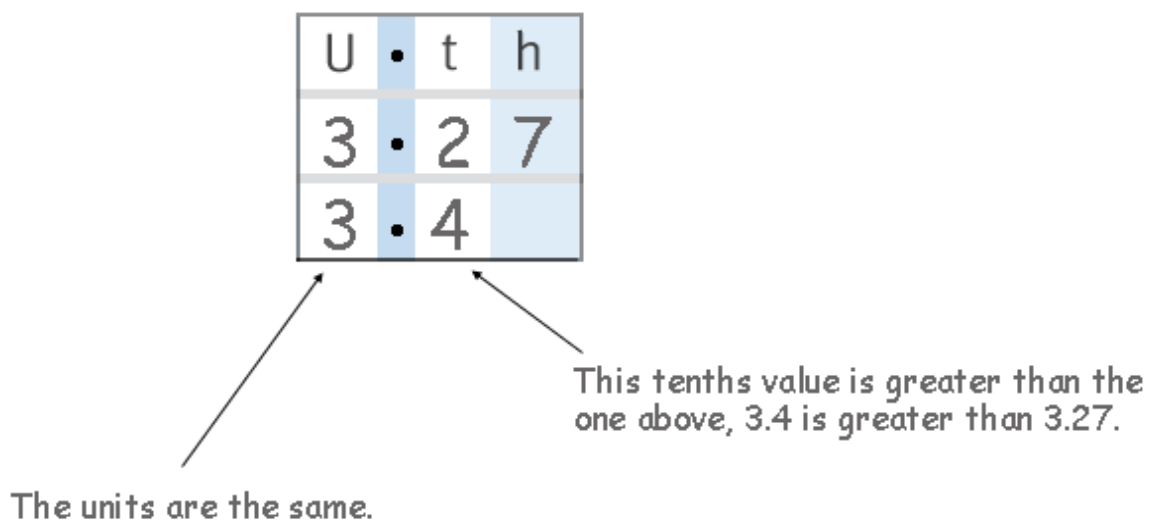


How to compare and order decimals

We read numbers from the **left** and say place values in whole numbers, so comparing 3,400 and 340 is easy. The first is three **thousand** four hundred and the second is three **hundred** and forty, a smaller number.

Comparing numbers that include decimal fractions can be more difficult. If we read 3.27 as three point twenty seven and 3.4 as three point four, then the first value **sounds** larger than the second.

When reading decimal fractions, read each digit separately and think about the place values carefully.



An easier way of comparing the values is to add extra zeroes so that each decimal fraction is the same length.

This would give:

3.27 (**three and twenty seven hundredths**) and
3.40 (**three and forty hundredths**). The second number is the larger.

Example

Put these numbers in size order, smallest first:

15.23, 15.7, 15.652.

- 15.230 is fifteen and **two hundred and thirty** thousandths
- 15.700 is fifteen and **seven hundred** thousandths
- 15.652 is fifteen and **six hundred and fifty two** thousandths

So the correct order is 15.23, 15.652, 15.7