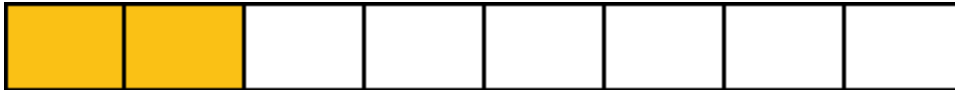


Comparing fractions

Here's a reminder of how to compare the size of fractions.

Example

This long box has been divided into eight equal parts. What fraction of the long box is shaded orange?



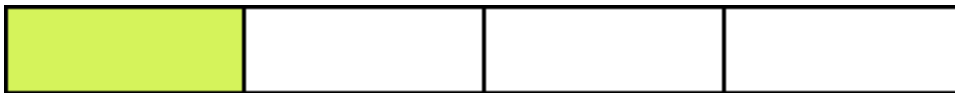
The long box has been divided into eight, so each small piece is one eighth, or $\frac{1}{8}$, of the whole long box.

Two parts are shaded orange. So two of the eighths, or $\frac{2}{8}$, are shaded. This means the fraction will have 2 on the top.

So the fraction of the long box that is shaded orange is $\frac{2}{8}$.

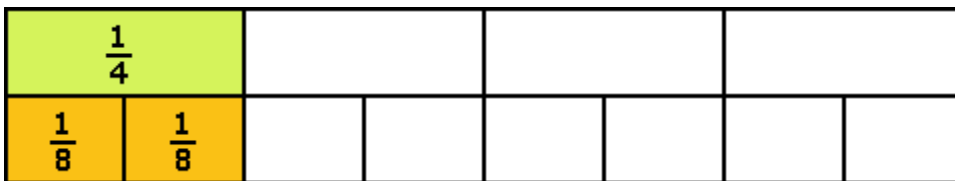
Example

This long box has been cut into four pieces and one piece has been shaded green.



The fraction of the long box shaded green is one quarter, or $\frac{1}{4}$.

We can compare the two fractions by putting them next to each other like this:



You can see that the amount shaded is the same in each strip. This means that the fractions are the same, or equal in value.

So $\frac{2}{8}$ is the same value as $\frac{1}{4}$.

We can write this as $\frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{4}$