MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Comparing weights and capacities

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you tell which bag is heavier at the grocery store or which bottle holds more juice. Comparing weights tells you about heaviness, and comparing capacities tells you about how much a container holds, and the two are not the same thing. Knowing both keeps you from picking the heavier bag when you wanted the one with more inside.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Which is heavier: a brick or a feather?



brick



feather

SOLUTION

Guessing is not a method: put them on a balance.

The side that goes down is the heavier side, and the brick's side goes down.

So the brick is heavier than the feather.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Which holds more: a jug or a cup?



jug



cup

SOLUTION

Fill the cup and pour it into the jug, counting as you go.

It takes several cupfuls to fill the jug.

So the jug holds more than the cup. Pouring settles it; looking does not.

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Practice questions

1 Which pulls down harder: a stone or a leaf?

- **A** The leaf
- **B** They pull down the same.
- **C** The stone
- **D** You cannot tell.

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2 A bag of sugar weighs 2 kilograms. A bag of flour weighs 1 kilogram. Which is heavier: the bag of sugar or the bag of flour?

- **A** The bag of flour
- **B** The bag of sugar
- **C** They weigh the same.
- **D** You cannot tell without a scale.

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3 A bottle holds 500 millilitres. A jug holds 2 litres. Which holds more: the bottle or the jug?

- **A** The bottle
- **B** They hold the same.
- **C** You cannot tell by looking.
- **D** The jug

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4 Which is lighter: 1 gram or 1 kilogram?

- **A** 1 gram
- **B** 1 kilogram
- **C** They weigh the same.
- **D** 1 litre

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5

Which is heavier: a big empty box or a small bag of sand?

A The big box, because it is bigger.

B The small bag, because sand is heavy.

C You cannot tell from size; you have to weigh them.

D They weigh the same.

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6

It takes 4 cupfuls to fill a jug. How many cupfuls fill 2 jugs?

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7 Order these from lightest to heaviest:
a feather
a book
a brick

- **A** Brick, book, feather
- **B** Feather, book, brick
- **C** Book, feather, brick
- **D** Feather, brick, book

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8 Which holds more: a teaspoon or a tablespoon?

- **A** The teaspoon
- **B** The tablespoon
- **C** They hold the same.
- **D** You cannot tell by looking.

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9 **A spoon holds 5 millilitres and a cup holds 250 millilitres. How many spoonfuls fill the cup?**

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10 **How can you be sure which of two jugs holds more?**

A. Pour one into the other, or fill both and count the cupfuls.

B. Guess again, more carefully.

C. Weigh them on a scale.

D. Look at which jug is taller.

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ANSWER KEY

1. The stone

2. The bag of sugar

3. The jug

4. 1 gram

5. You cannot tell from size; you have to weigh them.

6. 8

7. Feather, book, brick

8. The tablespoon

9. 50

10. Pour one into the other, or fill both and count the cupfuls.

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