

1.10 Taking Sides

A Practice Task



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Jbaquin and Serena work together productively in their math class. They both contribute their thinking and when they disagree, they both give their reasons and decide together who is right. In their math class right now, they are working on inequalities. Recently they had a discussion that went something like this:

Jbaquin: The problem says that "6 less than a number is greater than 4." I think that we should just follow the words and write $6 - x > 4$.

Serena: I don't think that works because if x is 20 and you do 6 less than that you get $20 - 6 = 14$. I think we should write $x - 6 > 4$.

Jbaquin: Oh, you're right. Then it makes sense that the solution will be $x > 10$, which means we can choose any number greater than 10.

The situations below are a few more of the disagreements and questions that Jbaquin and Serena have. Your job is to decide how to answer their questions, decide who is right, and give a mathematical explanation of your reasoning.

1. Jbaquin and Serena are assigned to graph the inequality $x \geq -7$.
Jbaquin thinks the graph should have an open dot -7 .
Serena thinks the graph should have a closed dot at -7 .
Explain who is correct and why.

2. Jbaquin and Serena are looking at the problem $3x + 1 > 0$.
Serena says that the inequality is always true because multiplying a number by three and then adding one to it makes the number greater than zero.
Is she right? Explain why or why not.

3. The word problem that Jbaquin and Serena are working on says, "4 greater than x ".
Jbaquin says that they should write: $4 > x$.
Serena says they should write: $x + 4$.
Explain who is correct and why.

4. Jbaquin is thinking hard about equations and inequalities and comes up with this idea:
 If $45 + 47 = t$, then $t = 45 + 47$.
 So, if $45 + 47 < t$, then $t < 45 + 47$.
 Is he right? Explain why or why not.
5. Jbaquin's question in #4 made Serena think about other similarities and differences in equations and inequalities. Serena wonders about the equation $-\frac{x}{3} = 4$ and the inequality $-\frac{x}{3} > 4$. Explain to Serena ways that solving these two problems are alike and ways that they are different. How are the solutions to the problems alike and different?
6. Jbaquin solved $-15q \leq 135$ by adding 15 to each side of the inequality. Serena said that he was wrong. Who do you think is right and why?
- Jbaquin's solution was $q \leq 150$. He checked his work by substituting 150 for q in the original inequality. Does this prove that Jbaquin is right? Explain why or why not.
- Jbaquin is still skeptical and believes that he is right. Find a number that satisfies his solution but does not satisfy the original inequality.
7. Serena is working is checking her work with Jbaquin and finds that they disagree on a problem. Here's what Serena wrote:
- $$3x + 3 \leq -2x + 5$$
- $$3x \leq -2x + 2$$
- $$x \leq 2$$
- Is she right? Explain why or why not?
8. Jbaquin and Serena are having trouble solving $-4(3m - 1) \geq 2(m + 3)$.
 Explain how they should solve the inequality, showing all the necessary steps and identifying the properties you would use.

9. Jaquin and Serena know that some equations are true for any value of the variable and some equations are never true, no matter what value is chosen for the variable. They are wondering about inequalities. What could you tell them about the following inequalities? Do they have solutions? What are they? How would you graph their solutions on a number line?
- a. $4s + 6 \geq 6 + 4s$
 - b. $3r + 5 > 3r - 2$
 - c. $4(n + 1) < 4n - 3$
10. The partners are given the literal inequality $ax + b > c$ to solve for x . Jaquin says that he will solve it just like an equation. Serena says that he needs to be careful because if a is a negative number, the solution will be different. What do you say? What are the solutions for the inequality?