

**Accelerated Math  
Notes  
(Section 8-6)  
Inequalities**

$>$        $\leq$   
 $<$        $\geq$

**"is no more than"**      **"is greater than"**

A mathematical sentence that contains any of the symbols listed below is called an **inequality**.

| $<$   | $>$  | $\leq$  | $\geq$  |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is less than</li> <li>• is fewer than</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is greater than</li> <li>• is more than</li> <li>• exceeds</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is less than or equal to</li> <li>• is no more than</li> <li>• is at most</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is greater than or equal to</li> <li>• is no less than</li> <li>• is at least</li> </ul> |

$x \leq 8$

**Write an inequality for each sentence.**

- Your height (h) is greater than or equal to 48 in.  $h \geq 48$
- Your age (a) is at least 12 years.  $a \geq 12$
- Your weight (w) is at most 120 pounds.  $w \leq 120$

We can determine the **Truth of an Inequality** for a given value by checking if the value makes the inequality true or false.

**True or False?**

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| $n - 9 < 4$<br>(for $n = 6$ )<br><br>$6 - 9 < 4$<br>$-3 < 4$ ✓<br><br><span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">True</span> | $14 \leq \frac{a}{3} + 1$<br>(for $a = 36$ )<br><br>$14 \leq \frac{36}{3} + 1$<br>$14 \leq 12 + 1$<br>$14 \leq 13$<br><span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">False</span> | $12 - m < 4$<br>(for $m = -3$ )<br><br>$12 - (-3) < 4$<br>$12 + 3 < 4$<br>$15 < 4$<br><span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">False</span> |
|---|--|--|

We can graph solutions to inequalities on the number line.

$x > 8$

The open circle means the number 8 is *not* included in the graph.

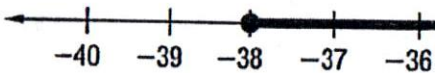
$x \leq 8$

The closed circle means the number 8 *is* included in the graph.

Write the inequality for these graphs.

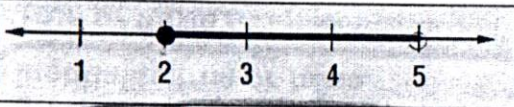


$$x < -7$$



$$x \geq -38$$

Read graph left to right



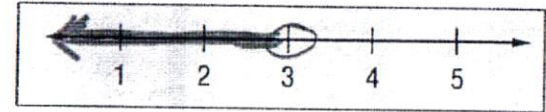
$$2 \leq x < 5$$

$$n \geq 2 \text{ and } n < 5$$

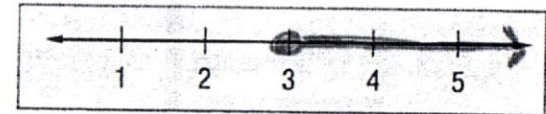
$$5 > x \geq 2$$

Graph each inequality

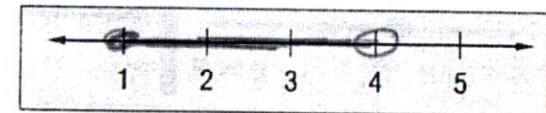
$$x < 3$$



$$x \geq 3$$



$$1 \leq x < 4$$



How many ways can we represent this inequality?

"a number is no more than 3"

$$n \leq 3$$

$$3 \geq n$$

a # is a most 3



$x < -7$  standard form  
variable on left

$$-7 > x$$