How to Remember Greater Than and Less Than Signs
Though the greater than and less than signs have clear meanings, they can be kind of hard to remember. So how can you remember them?

Alligator Method
One of the best ways to memorize the greater than and less than signs is to imagine them as little alligators (or crocodiles), with the numbers on either side representing a number of fish. The alligator always wants to eat the larger number of fish, so whatever number the mouth is open toward is the larger number.

The alligator’s mouth is open toward the 4, so even if we weren’t sure that 4 is a bigger number than 3, the > sign would tell us. All inequality signs give us the relationship between the first number and the second, beginning with the first number, so $4 > 3$ translates to “4 is greater than 3.”

This also works the other way around. If you see $5 < 8$, imagine the < sign as a little alligator mouth about to chomp down on some fish.

The mouth is pointed at the 8, which means that 8 is more than 5. The sign always tells us the relationship between the first number and the second, so $5 < 8$ can be translated to “5 is less than 8.”

When you’re working with inequalities, you can even draw little eyes on the symbols to help you remember which means which. These can be tricky to remember, so don’t be afraid to get a little creative until you really have them memorized!