# Maths skills – M2.1 Understand and use symbols =, ‹, ‹‹, ››, ›, α, ~

## Teacher answers

### Quiz

**1.** What do the following symbols mean?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| = | Equals |
| ~ | Approximately equal to |
| < | Less than |
| > | Greater than |
| << | Much less than |
| >> | Much greater than |
| α | Proportional to |

**2.** Use the most appropriate symbol to complete the following statements:

**a)** 10 < 20

**b)** 1,000,000 >> 2

**c)** 10.45 ~ 10.44

**d)** 12 = 12

**3.** Use symbols to express these biological statements more briefly:

**a)** The number of wolves is less than the number of red deer

| W < D **or** wolves < red deer **or** number of wolves < number of red deer |
| --- |

**b)** There are approximately as many females as males in the population

| F ~ M **or** number of females ~ number of males |
| --- |

**c)** The number of synapses in the human brain is much greater than the number of neurones

| S >> N **or** number of synapses >> number of neurones |
| --- |

**d)** The above ground biomass of plant species in the meadow in June is inversely proportional to the number of sheep grazing the meadow in May

| B ∝  **or** above ground plant biomass in June ∝ 1 / number of sheep in May |
| --- |

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