Inequalities

Inequalities can be expressed in the following three ways.

- 1. With an inequality symbol $(>, <, \ge, \le)$
- 2. With a number line graph
- 3. Using interval notation

Inequality Symbol	Number Line Graph	Interval Notation
x < a	$\stackrel{\longrightarrow}{a}$	$(-\infty,a)$
x > a	a	(a,∞)
$x \le a$	a	$(-\infty, a]$
$x \ge 0$	$a \longrightarrow a$	$[a,\infty)$
a < x < b	(—————————————————————————————————————	(a,b)
$a \le x < b$	$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \end{bmatrix}$	[a,b)
$a < x \le b$	$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \end{bmatrix}$	(a,b]
$a \le x \le b$	[[a,b]
no solution		Ø
all real numbers	-	$(-\infty,\infty)$

A parenthesis is the same as an 'open circle' and a bracket is the same as a 'closed circle'.

When using interval notation; always have the smallest value first. A parenthesis means x can get very close to that number and a bracket means x can equal that number. Never use a bracket with $-\infty$ or ∞ , since those are not 'exact' numbers.