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	Interval Notation
	Graph	
x < a	$ \xrightarrow{a} $	$(-\infty, a)$
x > a	a	(a,∞)
$x \le a$	[] a]	$(-\infty, a]$
$x \ge 0$	[→ a	$[a,\infty)$
a < x < b	(\longrightarrow) $a \qquad b$	(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]
$a \le x \le b$	$\begin{bmatrix} & & \\ a & & b \end{bmatrix}$	[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.