Symbol Sort

Find which number pairs match.

3.CE.1.d "Identify and use the appropriate symbol to distinguish between expressions that are equal and expressions that are not equal (e.g., 256 - 13 = 220 + 23; 457 + 100 ≠ 557 + 100)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

EQUAL VALUES

Use = when both sides have the same value. Find the value of each side before you choose.

38 + 27 = 70 - 5

NOT EQUAL VALUES

Use ≠ when the two sides have different values. The symbol ≠ means not equal to.

94 - 18 ≠ 50 + 25

1 SORT

8 items

For each pair, circle EQUAL or NOT EQUAL, then choose two items and explain how you found the value on each side.

1. 125 + 40 ____ 150 + 15 EQUAL NOT EQUAL

2. 620 - 90 ____ 500 + 30 EQUAL NOT EQUAL

3. 430 + 70 ____ 600 - 90 EQUAL NOT EQUAL

4. 900 - 250 ____ 300 + 350 EQUAL NOT EQUAL

5. 275 + 125 ____ 450 - 40 EQUAL NOT EQUAL

6. 800 - 375 ____ 200 + 220 EQUAL NOT EQUAL

7. 460 + 140 ____ 700 - 100 EQUAL NOT EQUAL

8. 640 - 180 ____ 300 + 160 EQUAL NOT EQUAL

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new comparison that uses = and one new comparison that uses ≠.

EQUAL _____

NOT EQUAL _____

CHALLENGE

Write an equal comparison using three addends on one side and two addends on the other. Use =.

ANSWER KEY # Symbol Sort

GRADE 3 · 3.CE.1.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	125 + 40 ___ 150 + 15	**EQUAL**	Both sides equal 165.
2	620 - 90 ___ 500 + 30	**EQUAL**	Both sides equal 530.
3	430 + 70 ___ 600 - 90	**NOT EQUAL**	The left side is 500 and the right side is 510.
4	900 - 250 ___ 300 + 350	**EQUAL**	Both sides equal 650.
5	275 + 125 ___ 450 - 40	**NOT EQUAL**	The left side is 400 and the right side is 410.
6	800 - 375 ___ 200 + 220	**NOT EQUAL**	The left side is 425 and the right side is 420.
7	460 + 140 ___ 700 - 100	**EQUAL**	Both sides equal 600.
8	640 - 180 ___ 300 + 160	**EQUAL**	Both sides equal 460.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **EQUAL**: 56 + 19 = 80 - 5
- **NOT EQUAL**: 63 + 28 ≠ 70 + 20

Challenge: 120 + 35 + 45 = 100 + 100

For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly find or compare both side values. Part 3 and the challenge may have more than one correct answer if the symbols match the values.