How to Determine if Fractions are Equivalent

$\frac{12}{20}$ and $\frac{3}{5}$

1. Compare the numerators of each fraction. Write the fraction with the smaller numerator on the left and the fraction with the larger numerator on the right. Leave space between the two fractions.

$\frac{12}{20}$ $\frac{3}{5}$

$3 < 12$

So switch the order

$\frac{3}{5}$ $\frac{12}{20}$

2. Ask what the numerator of the first fraction was multiplied by in order to get the numerator of the second fraction. This can also be determined by dividing the numerator of the second fraction by the numerator of the first fraction.

$12 \div 3 = 4$

$\frac{3}{5} \times \frac{?}{?} = \frac{12}{20}$

$3 \times ? = 12$ $\quad ? = 4$

3. Multiply the denominator of the first fraction by the number obtained in Step 2. If the product is equal to the denominator of the second fraction, then the fractions are equivalent.

$\frac{3}{5} \times \frac{4}{4} = \frac{12}{20}$

$5 \times 4 = 20$ so the fractions are equivalent