





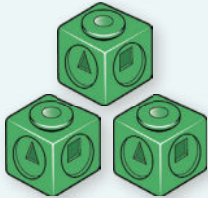
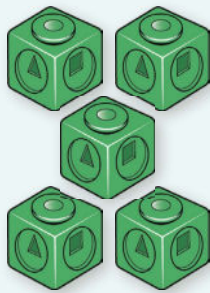


Start with comparative language **familiar to the students** such as 'bigger' and 'smaller' then gradually introduce other related mathematical language. As students become familiar using one word for a concept introduce another related word, one at a time.

Here is an example of counting related comparison mathematical language:

Comparison Language Chart

smaller		size		bigger → larger
shorter		length		longer
less		measurement		more
fewer		countable objects		more
less than	3	numbers	5	greater than
before	_, 4, 5	order	3, 4, _	after

Developing the concept of which number is **worth more or less** is an essential component of number sense. For this reason, when comparing numbers, start with words the students understand such as 'bigger/smaller'. However, mathematically these words describe size. When appropriate, introduce the mathematically correct words of **"less than"** and **"greater than"**.