

## Introduction to Ratios

In real life, numbers are usually quantities of objects and have units associated with them. (6 balls, 12 feet and 9 cars)

A ratio is a comparison between two numbers that have the same units.

Ratios can be written in three different ways

- As a fraction –  $\frac{3\text{ feet}}{4\text{ feet}} = \frac{3}{4}$ , ratios do not have units
- As two numbers separated by a colon 3 feet : 4 feet, 3 : 4
- As two numbers separated by the word to 3 feet to 4 feet, 3 to 4

Compare two boards, one 6 feet long to another of 8 feet long.

$\frac{6\text{ feet}}{8\text{ feet}} = \frac{6}{8} = \frac{3}{4}$ , this means that the shorter board is  $\frac{3}{4}$  the length of the longer

board