



## Grasshopper Math

Two grasshoppers are hanging around, and each is boasting that he is faster than the other. To settle the argument, they decide to have a race.

The larger of the grasshoppers, Greenie, can jump 10 inches at a single bound. The other grasshopper, Hoppy, can jump only six inches at a shot. So the larger grasshopper says, "We're going to set up a racecourse that's 24 feet long: 12 feet out and 12 feet back."

They're each at the starting point. The official starter shoots the gun, and they take off.

Now, even though Greenie, the bigger guy, can jump 10 inches at a shot, the little guy, Hoppy, jumps more often. So when they get to the five-foot mark -- which is 60 inches -- the big guy has jumped six times and the little guy has jumped 10 times, but they're dead even, neck and neck, or antennae to antennae.

The question is: Who wins the race, and why?

After solving the problem, scroll down to check your answer...

First, convert 12' to inches... 144"

Greenie jumps 10" at a time so after 14 jumps he has jumped 140"  
He jumps one more time to cross the line so now he is 6" past the line at 150"  
He turns around and starts to head back...

Hoppy jumps 6" at a time so after 24 jumps he is right at 144"  
He turns around and starts to head back in the lead by 6"  
Hoppy wins the race because he did not overshoot the 12' first leg of the race.