

The Difference Between the Rational Numbers and the Irrational Numbers Explained

<p style="margin: 0;">The Rational Numbers Q,</p> <p style="margin: 0;">are the numbers that can be written as a ratio (fraction) of two integers.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">They can be in the form of fractions, integers, terminating decimals, or repeating decimals.</p>		
<p style="margin: 0;">In form of fractions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">$\frac{3}{5}$</p> <p style="margin: 0;">is a rational number, because in this fraction, 3 is an integer, and 5 is an integer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">$\frac{-1}{4}$</p> <p style="margin: 0;">is a rational number, because in this fraction, -1 is an integer, and 4 is an integer.</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">In form of integers.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">7</p> <p style="margin: 0;">is a rational number, because we can write it as a fraction,</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">$\frac{7}{1}$</p> <p style="margin: 0;">and in this fraction, 7 is an integer, and 1 is an integer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">-9</p> <p style="margin: 0;">is a rational number, because we can write it as a fraction,</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">$\frac{-9}{1}$</p> <p style="margin: 0;">and in this fraction, -9 is an integer, and 1 is an integer.</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">In form of terminating decimals.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">0.25</p> <p style="margin: 0;">is a rational number, because we can write it as a fraction,</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">$0.25 = \frac{25}{100} = \frac{1}{4}$</p> <p style="margin: 0;">and in this fraction, 1 is an integer, and 4 is an integer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">0.713</p> <p style="margin: 0;">is a rational number, because we can write it as a fraction,</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">$0.713 = \frac{713}{1000}$</p> <p style="margin: 0;">and in this fraction, 713 is an integer, and 1000 is an integer.</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">In form of repeating decimals.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">0.636363 ...</p> <p style="margin: 0;">is a rational number, because we can write it as a fraction,</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">$0.636363 \dots = \frac{7}{11}$</p> <p style="margin: 0;">and in this fraction, 7 is an integer, and 11 is an integer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">0.33333 ...</p> <p style="margin: 0;">is a rational number, because we can write it as a fraction,</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">$0.33333 \dots = \frac{1}{3}$</p> <p style="margin: 0;">and in this fraction, 1 is an integer, and 3 is an integer.</p>

The Irrational Numbers I ,

are the numbers that cannot be written as a ratio (fraction) of two integers, and they are represented by **decimals that never terminate nor repeat.**

Decimals that
never terminate
nor repeat.

$$\sqrt{5} = 2.23606797 \dots$$

$$\sqrt{3} = 1.7320508 \dots$$

$$\sqrt{12} = 3.46410161 \dots$$

$$\pi = 3.14159265 \dots$$

$$e = 2.7182818284 \dots$$

In conclusion...

If a decimal is **terminating or repeating**, then the decimal is a **rational number**.

If a decimal is **neither repeating nor terminating**, then the decimal is an **irrational number**.

More Examples

4.723 is a **terminating decimal**, therefore the decimal is a **rational number**.

0.9 is a **terminating decimal**, therefore the decimal is a **rational number**.

0.454545454545 ... is a **repeating decimal**, therefore the decimal is a **rational number**.

6.274274274274274 ... is a **repeating decimal**, therefore the decimal is a **rational number**.

3.1415926535897932 ... is **neither repeating nor terminating**, therefore the decimal is an **irrational number**.

4.5825756949... is **neither repeating nor terminating**, therefore the decimal is an **irrational number**.