VB.NET - COMPARISON OPERATORS

Following table shows all the comparison operators supported by VB.Net. Assume variable **A** holds 10 and variable **B** holds 20, then:

Operator	Description	Example
=	Checks if the values of two operands are equal or not; if yes, then condition becomes true.	$A = B$ is not true.
<>	Checks if the values of two operands are equal or not; if values are not equal, then condition becomes true.	$A <> B$ is true.
>	Checks if the value of left operand is greater than the value of right operand; if yes, then condition becomes true.	$A > B$ is not true.
<	Checks if the value of left operand is less than the value of right operand; if yes, then condition becomes true.	$A < B$ is true.
>=	Checks if the value of left operand is greater than or equal to the value of right operand; if yes, then condition becomes true.	$A >= B$ is not true.
<=	Checks if the value of left operand is less than or equal to the value of right operand; if yes, then condition becomes true.	$A <= B$ is true.

Try the following example to understand all the relational operators available in VB.Net:

```vb.net
Module operators
   Sub Main()
      Dim a As Integer = 21
      Dim b As Integer = 10
      If (a = b) Then
         Console.WriteLine("Line 1 - a is equal to b")
      Else
         Console.WriteLine("Line 1 - a is not equal to b")
      End If
      If (a < b) Then
         Console.WriteLine("Line 2 - a is less than b")
      Else
         Console.WriteLine("Line 2 - a is not less than b")
      End If
      If (a > b) Then
         Console.WriteLine("Line 3 - a is greater than b")
      Else
         Console.WriteLine("Line 3 - a is not greater than b")
      End If
      ' Lets change value of a and b
      a = 5
      b = 20
      If (a <= b) Then
         Console.WriteLine("Line 4 - a is either less than or equal to  b")
      End If
      If (b >= a) Then
         Console.WriteLine("Line 5 - b is either greater than  or equal to b")
      End If
      Console.ReadLine()
   End Sub
End Sub
```

```
End Module
```

When the above code is compiled and executed, it produces the following result:

```
Line 1 - a is not equal to b
Line 2 - a is not less than b
Line 3 - a is greater than b
Line 4 - a is either less than or equal to b
Line 5 - b is either greater than or equal to b
```

Apart from the above, VB.Net provides three more comparison operators, which we will be using in forthcoming chapters; however, we give a brief description here.

- **Is** Operator - It compares two object reference variables and determines if two object references refer to the same object without performing value comparisons. If object1 and object2 both refer to the exact same object instance, result is **True**; otherwise, result is **False**.

- **IsNot** Operator - It also compares two object reference variables and determines if two object references refer to different objects. If object1 and object2 both refer to the exact same object instance, result is **False**; otherwise, result is **True**.

- **Like** Operator - It compares a string against a pattern.

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