Clinical Scores: Is Higher Better?

Know what a scale measures before reading the number

LOW

Lower is better

ECOG, NYHA, Child-Pugh, Rankin:
they measure the patient's limitation

HIGH

Higher is better

Glasgow (15 best), Apgar (10 best), Karnofsky:
they measure consciousness or vitality

BLD

Lower is worse

Forrest: grade I (active spurting bleeding) is the highest risk, grade III (clean-based ulcer) the lowest

Capacity, limitation	**Consciousness, vitality**	**Bleeding, lesion**
Low is good	High is good	Low is bad

A classic slip: in Glasgow a low score is the severe one (3 is the worst), the opposite of ECOG