



Basic Math Vocabulary

Developed by David Princehorn (Math Lab) and Bill DeLeeuw (Communications Lab)

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Integers	The set of numbers containing zero, the natural numbers (1, 2, 3, ...), and all the negatives of the natural numbers.
Factor	One of two or more expressions that are multiplied together to get a product.
Term	A number, a variable, or a product of numbers and variables that can be added or subtracted in an expression. In the trinomial $x^2 + 3xy - 5y$, there are three terms: x^2 , $3xy$, and $-5y$.
Variable	A letter used to represent a number value in an expression or an equation.
Expression	A mathematical phrase which can contain numbers, operators (add, subtract, multiply, divide), and at least one variable (like x , y) to represent operations.
Equation	A mathematical statement that says that two expressions have the same value; any number sentence with an $=$.
Exponent	A number that indicates the operation of repeated multiplication.
Coefficient	The number multiplying a variable in an algebraic expression.
Perimeter	The sum of the lengths of the sides of a polygon.
Area	The extent of a flat region or surface measured in square units.
Volume	A measurement of space, or capacity.
Angle	The union of two rays with a common endpoint, called the vertex.
Radius	The distance from the center to a point on a circle; the line segment from the center to a point on a circle.
Diameter	The distance across a circle through its center. The line segment that includes the center and whose endpoints lie on the circumference of the circle.
Circumference	The distance around a circle.
Parallel	Two lines are parallel if they are in the same plane and never intersect.
Perpendicular	Two lines are perpendicular if the angle between them is 90 degrees.
Intercept	The coordinate of a point at which a line, curve, or surface intersects a coordinate axis.

EXERCISE

Match the math words on the left with the words or phrases to the right.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. _____ volume | a. set of numbers with zero |
| 2. _____ exponent | b. expressions multiplied for a product |
| 3. _____ perimeter | c. a number or value added or subtracted |
| 4. _____ diameter | d. letter representing a number value |
| 5. _____ intercept | e. mathematical phrase containing at least one variable to represent operations |
| 6. _____ parallell | f. any number sentence with an =. |
| 7. _____ expression | g. a number indicating operation of repeated multiplication |
| 8. _____ term | h. number multiplying a variable in algebra |
| 9. _____ factor | i. sum of the lengths of sides of a polygon |
| 10. _____ area | j. extent of flat region measured in square units |
| 11. _____ equation | k. measurement of space, or capacity |
| 12. _____ variable | l. union of two rays with a vertex |
| 13. _____ angle | m. distance from the center to a point on circle |
| 14. _____ radius | n. distance across a circle through its center |
| 15. _____ circumference | o. distance around a circle |
| 16. _____ perpendicular | p. two lines in the same plane and never intersecting |
| 17. _____ coefficient | q. two lines are perpendicular if angle between them is 90 degrees |
| 18. _____ integers | r. coordinate of a point at which a line, curve, or surface intersects a coordinate |

ANSWER KEY

1. K

2. G

3. I

4. N

5. R

6. P

7. E

8. C

9. B

10. J

11. F

12. D

13. L

14. M

15. O

16. Q

17. H

18. A

Origin of Interesting Words?

Mathematics	The study of the measurement, properties, and relationships of quantities and sets, using numbers and symbols.
Arithmetic	The mathematics of integers, rational numbers, real numbers, or complex numbers under addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
Algebra	A branch of mathematics in which symbols, usually letters of the alphabet, represent numbers or members of a specified set and are used to represent quantities and to express general relationships that hold for all members of the set.
Calculus	The branch of mathematics that deals with limits and the differentiation and integration of functions of one or more variables.
Geometry	The mathematics of the properties, measurement, and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids.
Trigonometry	The branch of mathematics that deals with the relationships between the sides and the angles of triangles and the calculations based on them, particularly the trigonometric functions.
Quadratic	Relating to or containing terms with powers no higher than the 2 nd power.
Trapezoid	A quadrilateral (four-sided figure) that has exactly two sides parallel.
Quotient	The answer to a division problem.
Isosceles	Having two equal sides: <i>an isosceles triangle</i> .
Hypotenuse	In a right triangle, the side opposite to the right angle.
Asymptote	A straight line that is a close approximation to a curve as the curve goes off to infinity.
Reciprocal	The reciprocal of a number, a , is $1/a$, (a cannot be zero).