



Glossary

Mathematical terms

Learning Skills

Introduction:

This work sheet contains an alphabetical listing of mathematical terms that are commonly used in primary education.

This sheet will teach you to:

- Understand terms that are commonly used in mathematics.

1. Math Glossary

Add, addition – to join two or more numbers to get one. Other words for Add; plus, increase, more than, total

Area – measure of the space within a shape, the size a shape takes up, measured in square units.

Average – addition of all numbers, divided by how many numbers there are.

BODMAS – Brackets first, Orders (i.e. Powers and Square Roots, etc.), Division and Multiplication (left-to-right), Addition and Subtraction (left-to-right).

Commutative – numbers may be added or multiplied together in any order.

Compact form – written as a number.

Composite number - a number that has more than just 1 and itself as factors. The first 6 composite numbers are 4, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 12. All even numbers except 0 and 2 are composites. Some odd numbers are composite and some are prime.

Denominator – the bottom number in a fraction

Divide – sharing a number into equal parts. . Other words for divide; share, find the quotient

Equivalent fractions – two fractions are equivalent if they represent exactly the same portion of the whole.

Even number – a whole number that is divisible by 2, eg. 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 and numbers ending in these.

Expanded form – means of looking at the value of each digit making up a number.

Fraction – part of a whole.

Factor – a number that divides evenly into another number, eg. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 12 are all factors of 12.

Hectares – a metric measurement for land, 1 hectare = 10 000 square metres.

Improper fraction – has a numerator bigger than the denominator so represents a portion greater than 1 whole.

LCD lowest common denominator – the smallest number into which the two denominators will divide into exactly.

Mixed numeral – has a whole number as well as a fraction part.

Multiple – occurs when you multiply a number by any other number, eg. 24 is a multiple of 6 because it is the result of 6×4 .

Multiply – the repeated addition of the same number. Other words for multiply; times, lots of, product.

Numeral – symbol used to represent a number.

Numerator – the top number in a fraction.

Odd number – a whole number not divisible by 2, eg. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and numbers ending in these.

Order of operation – order in which operations should be carried out. BODMAS

Percent – means out of 100.

Perimeter – the distance around a shape.

Place value – value of a number based on its position.

Power – shows how many times the number is multiplied by itself.

Prime number – is a number that only has 1 and itself as factors. The first 10 prime numbers are 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23 and 29.

Proper fraction – has a smaller numerator than the denominator, so represent a portion less than 1 whole.

Remainder – what is left after a division.

SI unit – the International System of Units, units include length (metre), mass (kilogram), time (second).

Subtract – difference between two numbers. Other words for subtract minus; decrease, less than, less, difference.

Volume – space contained within a solid, measured in cubic units.

2. For more information

Visit our Learning Skills website at <http://www.csu.edu.au/division/studserv/maths/teachered.htm>

Other useful websites are available at:

<http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com/>

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