

MATH VOCABULARY

At each of these grade cycles, the following terms should be part of the students' working vocabularies. Source of the lists of words: ISBE. For more math resources from ISBE, go to ISBE.net.

By Third Grade

12 inches = 1 clothes = 1 cl	By Inira Grade						
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By Fifth Grade

acute angle angle approximately arc base bisect characteristic chord circumference

column combination composite number congruent symbols in coordinate graph correspond cubic units (3) data

decimeter degrees (°) degrees Celsius (°C) degrees Fahrenheit (°F) diagonals diagram dimensions dividend divisor elapsed time equilateral triangle exactly expression gallon (gal)

greatest common factor heptagon intersect intersecting lines irregular polygon is approximately equal

to (≈) is congruent to (≅) is parallel to (||) is perpendicular to (\bot) is similar to (~) isosceles triangle

least common multiple liter (L)

lowest terms

mean (arithmetic average)

median midpoint

miles per hour (mph)

mode multiple

multiply/multiplication (* or •)

nonagon nth term obtuse angle order of operations

per

percent (%) perpendicular pint (pt) polygons portion prime number proportion quart (qt) quotient random range

ratio (":" or "to") reflections regular polygon right angle symbol right triangle rotations row

scale drawing scalene triangle sequence slides

square units (2) stem-and-leaf plot time zone

ton (t) triangle (Δ) value of

By Eighth Grade

adjacent alternate exterior angles alternate interior angles

altitude approximate

ascend/ascending order

axes commission complementary compound inequality consecutive convert

corresponding angles

decagon

descend/descending order

discount distinct divisibility domain down payment earns factorial foot (ft or ') function fundamental counting

hypotenuse inch (in. or ")

independent inequality

is greater than or equal to (≥) is less than or equal to (≤)

maximum

measure of angle

minimum

odds permutation principle proportionally Pythagorean Theorem quadrants radical random rate real number satisfy scattergram semi-circle sequence simple interest skew square root supplementary surface area transversal vertical angles x-axis v-axis

Activity Projects to Make these Words Working Vocabularies

Students can sort these words into categories such as "operations" words and "size and shape" words. They also can use them as a check-list for their own math glossaries. Vocabulary from these lists should be included in explanations and in multiple choice and open-ended questions that students construct and take so they become confident math readers and writers. The words are cumulative, so students at upper grades should have a working knowledge of all the words on the tables. Students needing more assistance in learning these terms should learn them in context not as isolated words. Therefore, they should use them in sentences they write to explain what they mean with math examples they find or create.