Numeracy Across the Curriculum

ENGLISH

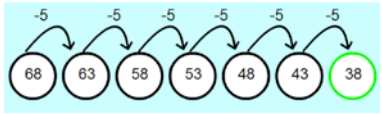
Using mathematical vocabulary correctly

It is important to make sure you can **spell** mathematical words and use them in the correct context.

Here are some of the mathematical words that people often spell incorrectly.

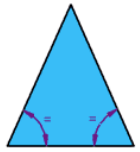
Addition

Sequence

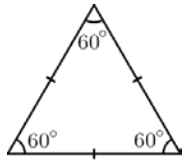


Parallelogram

Isosceles triangle



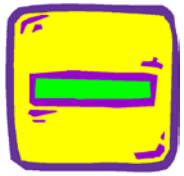
Equilateral triangle



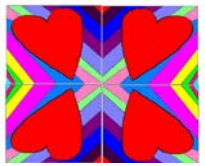
Probability

Trapezium

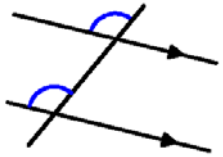
Negative



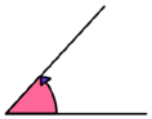
Symmetry



Corresponding angles



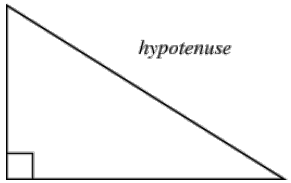
Angle



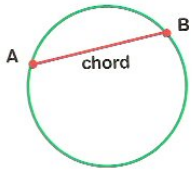
Circumference

Function

Hypotenuse



Chord



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ENGLISH

Explaining and Justifying Methods and Conclusions

It is important to be able to explain your mathematical thinking to others. This not only helps others understand how you have worked things out, but improves your understanding of what you have done. Look at the example below. The highlighted words are good ones to use in mathematical arguments.

Find the value of the expression $\frac{2y+8}{2}$ when y = 7

If y is equal to 7, **then** 2y must be equal to 14. This is **because** 2y **means** 2 multiplied by y and 2 multiplied by 7 is 14. **Therefore** 2y plus 8 will equal 14 plus 8 which is 22. **It follows that** 2y plus 8 divided by 2 will therefore be 11, since 22 divided by 2 is 11.

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Interpreting and Discussing Results

An important branch of mathematics is statistics, which involves the collection, presentation and evaluation of data. You can use your skills in English to clearly interpret and discuss results you get from collecting data in your maths lessons.

This graph **compares** the percentage of students achieving different GCSE grades in 2010 with those in 2011.

The **modal** grade for both years was a grade C. In 2011 there was an **increase** in the percentage of students achieving grades A*, A and B and a **decrease** in the percentage of students achieving a Grade C or D.