

UKS2 Maths vocabulary and definitions to help you support your child

KEY WORDS	DEFINITION
3-D	A shape with three dimensions: length, width and height
acute	An angle measuring less than 90 degrees
analogue	12- hour time written as a.m (morning) or p.m (afternoon) usually shown by a clock with hands
anti- clockwise	The opposite direction to which the hands move round the clock
area	The material needed to cover a space.
axis	The horizontal (x axis) or vertical (y axis) lines used in plotting coordinates
capacity	The quantity that can be held in a container. Can also be known as volume.
clockwise	The direction in which the hands move around th clock
circumference	The distance around a circle
column method	Writing numbers in columns according to their place value to make them easier to add, subtract etc
common factor	Numbers that are factors of more than one number
common multiple	Numbers that are multiples of more than one number
composite shape	A shape made from other shapes joined together
cube number	The result of multiplying a number by itself and itself again
decimal place	The number of digits to the right of the decimal point
decimal point	A 'full stop' that comes between the place value column 'Ones' and 'tenths'
degrees	The units to record angles
denominator	The number below the line in a fraction: how many parts the whole has been split into
diameter	The distance across a circle through the centre
digit	A number from 0 to 9
divisor	The number that you are dividing by
equation	A number sentence where some numbers are replaced by letters
exchange	Move a digit to the next place value column
equilateral	A triangle with three equal angles and three equal sides
equivalent fraction	Fractions that equal each other
estimate	A sensible guess at an answer
factor	Numbers that can be multiplied together to get another number
formula	Using letters or symbols where the letters can be replaced by numbers
greater than	A larger value than another
hundreds	The place value where that digit represents a number of hundreds

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improper fraction	A fraction which is larger than one whole (the numerator is larger than the denominator)
irregular	A shape that has sides of different lengths and interior angles that are not equal
isosceles	A triangle with two equal sides and two equal angles
length	A measure of the longest side of a shape
less than	A smaller value when compared against another
line of symmetry	A line in which a shape can be reflected to give a mirror image of itself
lowest common multiple	The multiple (of the smallest value) that many factors belong to
mass	How heavy something is, usually recorded in g or kg
mean	Average value of something, calculated by adding them all together then dividing by how many values there are
metric	A measurement system based on decimals
mixed number	A number containing a whole number and a fraction
multiple	The result of multiplying a given number by another number
negative number	A number to the left of zero on a number line (recorded with a minus '-' sign in front of it)
net	A 2-D representation of a 3-D shape
number bonds	Corresponding numbers needed to give a total
numerator	The number of parts referred to in a fraction (the top number)
obtuse	An angle greater than 90 degrees
Ones	The 'Ones' place value column
parallel	Lines which run the same distance apart and never meet
parallelogram	A four- sided shape (quadrilateral) where the opposite sides are parallel
partition	To split up a number into its individual parts depending on their place value
percent	A value expressed as something out of 100 (%)
perimeter	The distance around the outside of a 2D shape
perpendicular	A line lying at 90 degrees to another
place holder	A zero used to keep all the digits in the correct column during multiplication
place value	The value each digit has, shown by its position
polygon	A shape with at least three straight sides
prime number	A number which only has two factors: itself and 1
properties	The features that describe a shape e/g the number and size of sides and angles. Referred to as 'Geometry'.
protractor	A device used to measure angles
quadrant	One of four areas on a coordinate grid
quadrilateral	A four-sided shape
radius	The distance from the edge of a circle to the centre

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ratio	The relationship between two amounts
reflection	The mirror image of a shape after it has been reflected in a line
reflex	An angle greater than 180 degrees but less than 360 degrees
regular	Shape that has sides the same length and angles that are equal
remainder	Amount left over after a division calculation
rhombus	Four sided shape where opposite angles are parallel and all sides are of equal length
right angle	An angle equalling 90 degrees
rounding	Adjusting a number to the nearest multiple of 10 to make it easier to calculate with
scalene	Triangle where none of its sides or angles are equal
scale up	Multiplying by a set number to increase quantities
sequence	A set of numbers that increase or decrease by the same or different value each time
simplify	To reduce a fraction to its simplest form
square number	The result of multiplying a number by itself
symmetrical	A shape where one side is a mirror image of another
Tens	The place value column where that digit represents the number of tens
term	The corresponding number in a sequence
translation	Move a shape's position or direction without altering its original size or shape
trapezium	Four-sided shape where one side of opposite sides are parallel
units	System used to record measurements
variable	Number that can change depending on what value it's given
vertex (vertices)	Corner (s) of a 2-D or 3-D shape
volume	Quantity that can be held in a container
whole number	A number that has no fraction or decimal parts
x axis	Horizontal axis used when plotting coordinates
Y axis	Vertical axis used when plotting coordinates