

Reading Your Geometry Book

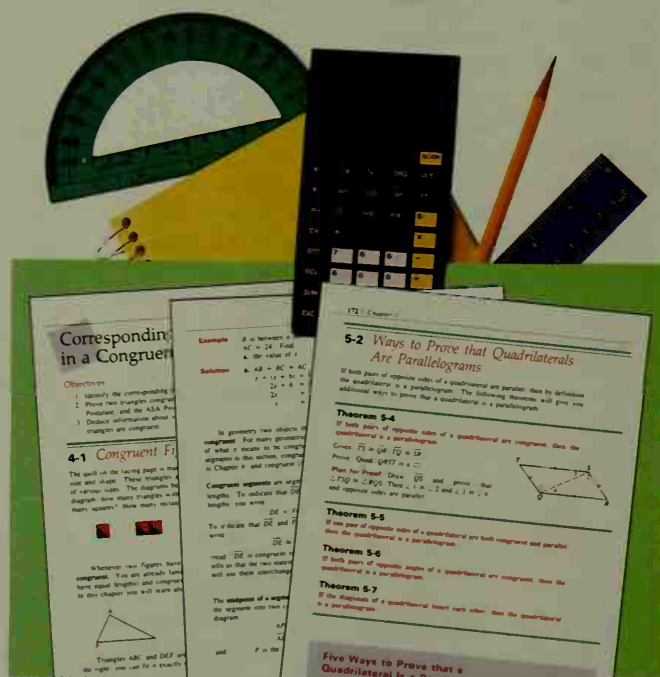
Reading mathematics is different from reading the newspaper or reading a novel because mathematics has its own vocabulary and symbols. You will find many new words in this book. Some of them are unique to mathematics, for example, *hypotenuse*, *isosceles*, and *secant*. Other words are used in everyday speech but have a different meaning in geometry, for example, *plane*, *line*, and *construction*. It is important to understand each new vocabulary word because ideas in geometry are built from the vocabulary and ideas that come before. If you don't remember the meaning of a word, you can look it up in the Glossary or Index.

Symbols

In order to read geometry, you must also know how to read its symbols. If you have trouble reading a statement expressed in symbols, first make sure you understand all the symbols. Use the list of symbols on page xi if you need to refresh your memory. Then, reread the statement. Sometimes you may find it helpful to write the statement out in words or just to say the words aloud.

Reading a Lesson

When you read a geometry lesson, first skim the lesson for main ideas. This book is organized to help you find the main ideas easily. Look for the title of the chapter and lesson. Each section of this book lists the objectives for the next two or three lessons. Look for displayed material in boxes or color, including postulates, theorems, and summaries. Look for any vocabulary words in **boldface** or *italic*. And look for any new symbols. Skimming the lesson should allow you to build a general framework of the information you are about to read.



Now read the section. Think about each block of information as you read. Try to place it in the framework you built while skimming. There are many worked-out examples that can help you in doing the exercises. Think about how you would solve each example before reading its solution. Keep paper and pencil handy for doing the examples, taking notes, or writing down questions. If there is anything you don't understand after reading and rereading, make a note to ask your teacher or a classmate later.