

Table of set theory symbols

Symbol	Symbol Name	Meaning / definition	Example
$\{ \}$	set	a collection of elements	$A = \{3,7,9,14\}$ , $B = \{9,14,28\}$
$ $	such that	so that	$A = \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}, x < 0\}$
$A \cap B$	intersection	objects that belong to set A and set B	$A \cap B = \{9,14\}$
$A \cup B$	union	objects that belong to set A or set B	$A \cup B = \{3,7,9,14,28\}$
$A \subseteq B$	subset	A is a subset of B. set A is included in set B.	$\{9,14,28\} \subseteq \{9,14,28\}$
$A \subset B$	proper subset / strict subset	A is a subset of B, but A is not equal to B.	$\{9,14\} \subset \{9,14,28\}$
$A \not\subseteq B$	not subset	set A is not a subset of set B	$\{9,66\} \not\subseteq \{9,14,28\}$
$A \supseteq B$	superset	A is a superset of B. set A includes set B	$\{9,14,28\} \supseteq \{9,14,28\}$
$A \supset B$	proper superset / strict superset	A is a superset of B, but B is not equal to A.	$\{9,14,28\} \supset \{9,14\}$
$A \not\supset B$	not superset	set A is not a superset of set B	$\{9,14,28\} \not\supset \{9,66\}$
$2^A$	power set	all subsets of A	
$\mathcal{P}(A)$	power set	all subsets of A	
$A=B$	equality	both sets have the same members	$A=\{3,9,14\}$ , $B=\{3,9,14\}$ , $A=B$

Symbol	Symbol Name	Meaning / definition	Example
$A^c$	complement	all the objects that do not belong to set A	
$A'$	complement	all the objects that do not belong to set A	
$A \setminus B$	relative complement	objects that belong to A and not to B	$A = \{3,9,14\}$ , $B = \{1,2,3\}$ , $A \setminus B = \{9,14\}$
$A - B$	relative complement	objects that belong to A and not to B	$A = \{3,9,14\}$ , $B = \{1,2,3\}$ , $A - B = \{9,14\}$
$A \Delta B$	symmetric difference	objects that belong to A or B but not to their intersection	$A = \{3,9,14\}$ , $B = \{1,2,3\}$ , $A \Delta B = \{1,2,9,14\}$
$A \ominus B$	symmetric difference	objects that belong to A or B but not to their intersection	$A = \{3,9,14\}$ , $B = \{1,2,3\}$ , $A \ominus B = \{1,2,9,14\}$
$a \in A$	element of, belongs to	set membership	$A = \{3,9,14\}$ , $3 \in A$
$x \notin A$	not element of	no set membership	$A = \{3,9,14\}$ , $1 \notin A$
$(a,b)$	ordered pair	collection of 2 elements	
$A \times B$	cartesian product	set of all ordered pairs from A and B	
$ A $	cardinality	the number of elements of set A	$A = \{3,9,14\}$ , $ A =3$
$\#A$	cardinality	the number of elements of set A	$A = \{3,9,14\}$ , $\#A=3$

Symbol	Symbol Name	Meaning / definition	Example
$\aleph_0$	aleph-null	infinite cardinality of natural numbers set	
$\aleph_1$	aleph-one	cardinality of countable ordinal numbers set	
$\emptyset$	empty set	$\emptyset = \{\}$	$A = \emptyset$
$\mathbb{U}$	universal set	set of all possible values	
$\mathbb{N}_0$	natural numbers / whole numbers set (with zero)	$\mathbb{N}_0 = \{0,1,2,3,4,\dots\}$	$0 \in \mathbb{N}_0$
$\mathbb{N}_1$	natural numbers / whole numbers set (without zero)	$\mathbb{N}_1 = \{1,2,3,4,5,\dots\}$	$6 \in \mathbb{N}_1$
$\mathbb{Z}$	integer numbers set	$\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots,-3,-2,-1,0,1,2,3,\dots\}$	$-6 \in \mathbb{Z}$
$\mathbb{Q}$	rational numbers set	$\mathbb{Q} = \{x \mid x=a/b, a,b \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } b \neq 0\}$	$2/6 \in \mathbb{Q}$
$\mathbb{R}$	real numbers set	$\mathbb{R} = \{x \mid -\infty < x < \infty\}$	$6.343434 \in \mathbb{R}$
$\mathbb{C}$	complex numbers set	$\mathbb{C} = \{z \mid z=a+bi, -\infty < a < \infty, -\infty < b < \infty\}$	$6+2i \in \mathbb{C}$