

Unit 4 — Similarity

Geometry Advanced
2022-2023

- 1: Ratio and Proportion
- 2: Definition of Similar Polygons
- 3: Proving Triangles Similar
- 4: Triangle Proportionality Theorem + Angle Bisector Proportionality Theorem
- 5: More Ways to Prove Triangles Similar
- 6: Area of Similar Polygons
- 7: Unit Practice

1 — Proportions

Advanced Geometry — Similarity Unit

Task 1: Properties of Proportions:

Knowing that $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d}$ what other equations and proportions can you write?

Find as many as you can. Get creative!

Be sure you can algebraically defend the validity of each of your equations.

Task 2: Geometric Mean

Definition: The **arithmetic mean** of two numbers a and b is the number $\frac{a+b}{2}$.

Definition: The **geometric mean** between a and b is the positive number x such that:

$$\frac{a}{x} = \frac{x}{b}$$

1. Let $a = 4$ and $b = 25$.
 - (a) Find the arithmetic mean (i.e., the average) of a and b .
 - (b) Find the geometric mean between a and b .
2. Show that the geometric mean of two positive numbers, a and b , is \sqrt{ab} .
3. Show that the geometric mean of two positive numbers, a and b , is less than the arithmetic mean

Practice problems

1. In the United Kingdom approximately 3 of every 1500 houses have a trampoline in the backyard. If there are approximately 11,000,000 houses in Great Britain, how many have a trampoline in the backyard? See if you can do this one in your head. Then write down the calculations that you did.



2. The ratio of left-handed students to right handed students at BHS is approximately 2 to 9. If there are 2100 students at BHS, how many are left-handed?



3. A box contains red and yellow marbles in the ratio 2:3 (2 to 3). After adding five red marbles the ratio of red to yellow is 5:6 (5 to 6). How many yellow marbles are in the box?

4. The ratio of red marbles to yellow marbles in a box is 3:4. After adding eight yellow marbles to the box the ratio of red to yellow marbles is 3:5. How many marbles were in the box at the start?



5. During a game players can win or lose marbles. At the start of the game Mo, Larry, and Curly have marbles in the ratio 5:6:7. At the end of the game they have marbles in the ratio 7:9:8. Show that Mo ends the game with more marbles than she had at the start.

6. It takes 6 people who work 8 hours a day for 10 days to build a bridge. How many days would it take to build the bridge if 5 people are working 6 hours per day?



7. State each of the following ratios in lowest terms:

a) $35:75$

b) $c^3 : 6c^2$

c) $12 : 18 : 6$

8. True or false?

a) If $\frac{x}{y} = \frac{5}{7}$ then $x = 5$ and $y = 7$

b) If $a = 8$ and $b = 3$ then $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{8}{3}$

c) $\frac{x}{5} = \frac{2}{3}$ if and only if $3x = 10$

d) If $\frac{g}{h} = \frac{4}{9}$ then $\frac{g+4}{h+9} = \frac{4}{9}$

9. Let r be the value of the geometric mean of 3 and 11. Find the value of r^2 .

10. Two complementary angles have measures that are in the ratio 5 : 13. Find the measure of the two angles.

11. Two numbers are in the ratio 3 : 5. Their sum is 16. Find the numbers.

12. \overline{AB} contains a point C such that $AC : BC = 3 : 10$. If $AB = 65$, find AC and BC

Properties of Proportions

Can be used in proofs via the reason "property of proportions"

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d} \text{ if and only if } ad = bc$$

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d} \text{ if and only if } \frac{a+b}{b} = \frac{c+d}{d}$$

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d} \text{ if and only if } \frac{b}{a} = \frac{d}{c}$$

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d} \text{ if and only if } \frac{a-b}{b} = \frac{c-d}{d}$$

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d} \text{ if and only if } \frac{a}{c} = \frac{b}{d}$$

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d} \text{ if and only if } \frac{a}{b} = \frac{a+c}{b+d}$$

These are some of the equivalencies that you might have discovered during Task 1. Use this space to prove any of the properties that you didn't get to in class.

2 – Similar Polygons

Advanced Geometry — Similarity Unit

Similar Polygons: Two *polygons* are similar if and only if...

1. Corresponding angles are congruent
2. The lengths of corresponding sides are proportional (have the same ratio)

Notes about language and notation: We say that...

- Angles are *congruent* (\cong)
- Sides are *proportional*
- Triangles are *similar*
- The statement $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$ is read as “Triangle ABC is similar to Triangle DEF”

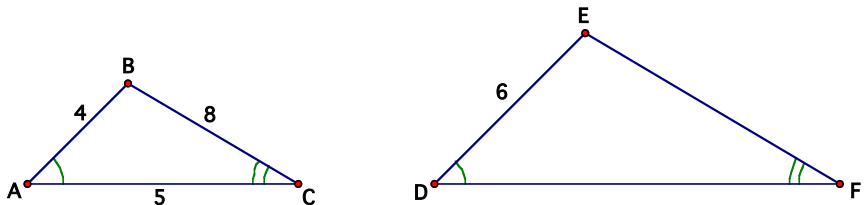
Constant of Proportionality: The ratio of the lengths of any two corresponding sides of two polygons

Ex: If $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$ and the **C of P** is 2 then $\frac{AB}{DE} = \frac{BC}{EF} = \frac{AC}{DF} = 2$

You could also say that the constant of proportionality between these two Δ s is $\frac{1}{2}$

Super Interesting Fact: Congruent triangles are just similar triangles with a C of P of 1

EX: In the diagram below It is given that $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$. Find EF and DF .



Task 1: Similar Polygons – Congruent Angles and Proportional Sides

By definition, two polygons are similar if and only if corresponding angles are *congruent* **and** corresponding sides are *proportional*.

In this exercise, you will explore whether both conditions are necessary for n-gons in which $n > 3$.

1. As a group, discuss then decide whether or not you agree with the following conjectures:

a) **Two quadrilaterals whose corresponding angles are congruent are similar.**

If you believe the conjecture to be true, prove it! If not, draw a counter-example.

Conclusion: _____

b) **Two quadrilaterals whose corresponding side lengths are proportional are similar.**

If you believe the conjecture to be true, prove it! If not, draw a counter-example.

Conclusion: _____

2. Indicate whether the pairs of polygons are always, sometimes, or never similar.

- If **sometimes**, draw an example and counter-example.
- If **never**, draw a counter-example.

(a) Two squares

(e) A trapezoid and a rhombus

(b) Two rhombi

(f) Two regular hexagons

(c) Two isosceles triangles

(g) Two equilateral triangles

(d) Two right triangles

(h) Two regular n-gons

Check your group's responses with another group: _____

Task 2:

Perimeter and Area of Similar Polygons

- (a) Explore the relationship between the perimeters of two similar polygons**

What did you find? _____

(b) Explore the relationship of the areas between two similar polygons

What did you find? _____

Check your group's responses with another group: _____

Task 3:

What *does* the definition of similar polygons really say?

You are given that $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$.

Which of the following statements are true?

Which of the following statements can be justified by the reason “Def. of similar polygons”?

a. $\frac{AB}{AC} = \frac{DE}{DF}$ b. $\frac{BC}{EF} = \frac{CA}{FD}$ c. $\frac{DF}{AC} = \frac{ED}{BA}$ d. $\frac{AB}{DE} = \frac{EF}{BC}$ e. $AB \cdot EF = BC \cdot DE$

0. Spend 5-10 minutes writing down important information from today in your notebook. A little bit of studying *now* saves you a whole bunch of studying *later*!

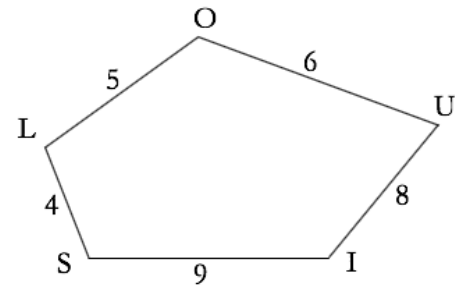
1. If $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$, $AB = 4$, $AC = 10$, $DE = x - 1$, and $DF = x + 2$, find the value of x .

2. If $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$, $AB = 5$, $AC = 8$, $BC = y + 3$, $DE = 2x + 3$, and $DF = 4x$, and $EF = 5y + 1$, find the values of x and y .

3. Suppose $LOUIS \sim HENRY$, and $NR = 6$.

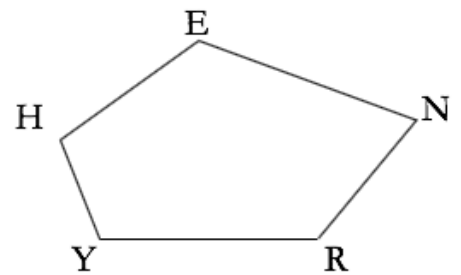
a. Find the length of each side of HENRY.

b. Find the constant of proportionality of the two pentagons.



c. Find the ratio of the perimeters of the two pentagons.

d. If two polygons are similar, what can you conclude about their perimeters? Why?



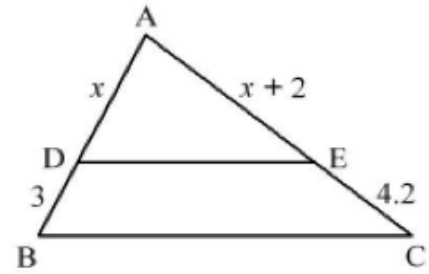
4. The sides of a pentagon have lengths 5, 8, 9, 11 and 17.

Find the length of the shortest side of a similar polygon whose perimeter is 40.

5. In the diagram to the right it is given that $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle ADE$:

a.) Complete: $\frac{AD}{AB} = \frac{??}{AC}$

b.) Find the value of x .



c.) If the perimeter of $\triangle ADE$ is 22, find BC .

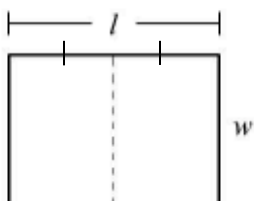
6. Two squares have sides of lengths 9 and 12 respectively.

(a) What is the constant of proportionality between the squares?

(b) What is the ratio of their areas?

(c) How is the ratio of their areas related to the constant of proportionality?

7. The rectangle shown below is folded along the dotted line to create a smaller rectangle that is similar to the original one. Find the ratio $w:l$.



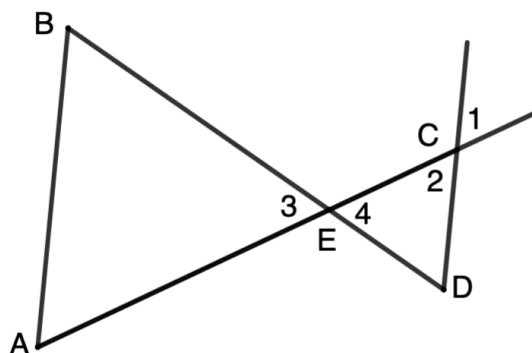
3 – Proving Triangles Similar

Advanced Geometry — Similarity Unit

Angle-Angle Similarity ($AA\sim$) theorem:

1. Given: $\angle 1 \cong \angle A$

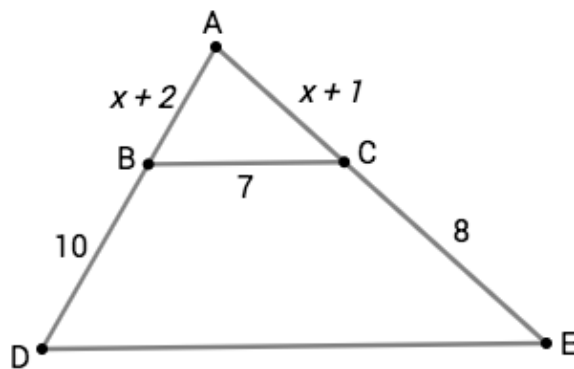
Prove: $\triangle ABE \sim \triangle CDE$



2. In the diagram to the right $\overline{BC} \parallel \overline{DE}$

a) Explain why $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle ADE$.

b) Solve for x .

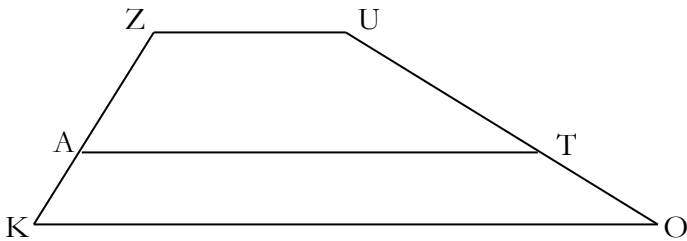


c) Find DE . (Be careful; it's not 14)

3. It is given that $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$, $AC = 10$, $DF = 5$, and the area of $\triangle ABC$ is 40. What is the area of $\triangle DEF$?

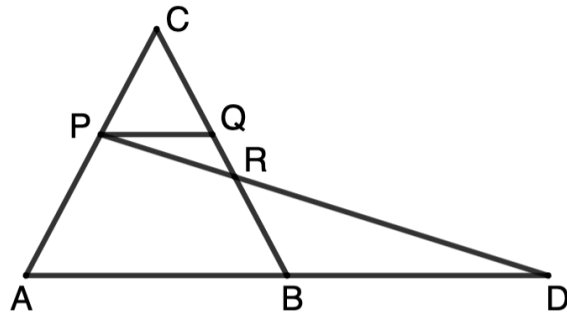
3b. Make a conjecture based on your answer to the previous problem.

4. In trapezoid $KZUO$, \overline{AT} is drawn so that $\overline{KO} \parallel \overline{AT} \parallel \overline{ZU}$. Is $\triangle AZUT$ similar to $KZUO$? Why or why not?

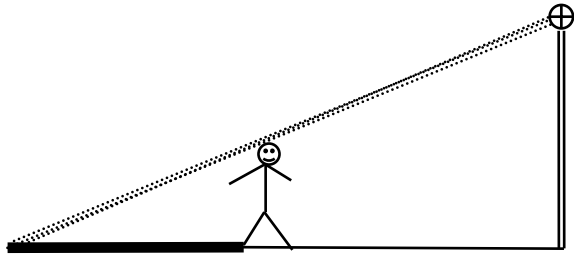


5. Given $\overline{PQ} \parallel \overline{AD}$ and $\overline{AB} \cong \overline{BD}$

Prove: $\frac{CP}{CA} = \frac{PR}{RD}$

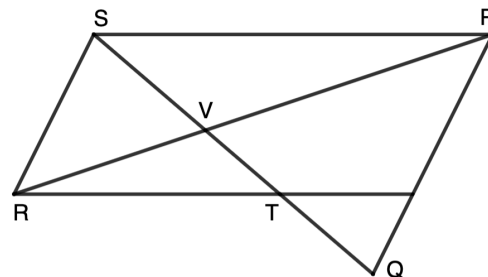


6. It is a dark and stormy night. Spike, who is 5ft 9in tall, is standing near her favorite streetlamp, whose name is Jonze. Jonze is 23 feet tall. The length of Spike's shadow is 4 feet. Determine how far Spike is away from Jonze. *Note: Shown below is Spike and Jonze.*



7. On that same night, Kirby is standing 16 feet away from another street lamp (This streetlamp unfortunately does not have a name). Kirby's shadow is 8 feet long. If the street lamp is 12 feet taller than Kirby, find Kirby's height. *Note: If you're getting 12 feet for an answer, you're making a mistake.*

8. Given: $\overline{SP} \parallel \overline{RT}$
 $\overline{SR} \parallel \overline{PQ}$
- Prove: $RT \cdot PQ = PS \cdot RS$



9. Spend 5-10 minutes writing down important information from today in your notebook. A little bit of studying *now* saves you a whole bunch of studying *later*!

4 – Triangle Proportionality Theorem (and others)

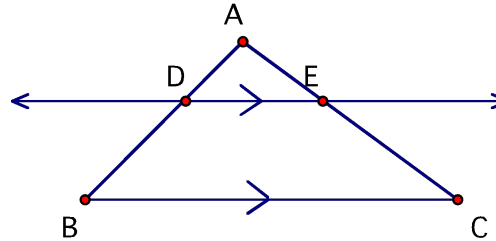
Advanced Geometry — Similarity Unit

Triangle Proportionality Theorem (Δ Prop Thm): A line that intersects two sides of a triangle is parallel to the third side of the triangle if and only if it divides the two sides proportionally.

Ex: In the diagram to the right,

$$\overleftrightarrow{DE} \parallel \overleftrightarrow{BC} \leftrightarrow \frac{AD}{DB} = \frac{AE}{EC}$$

(and equivalent proportions)

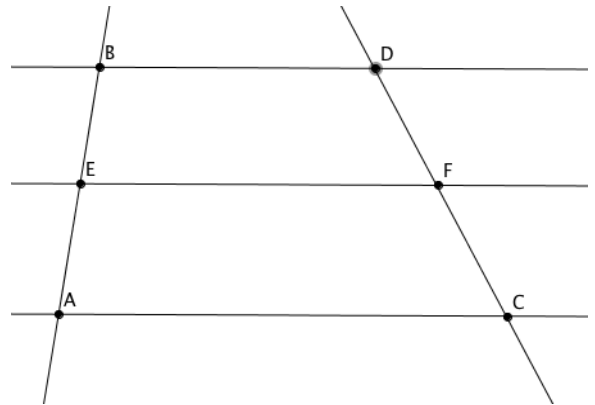


Corollary:

If three parallel lines are cut by two transversals then the parallel lines divide the transversals proportionally.

Ex: In the diagram to the right,

$$\overleftrightarrow{BD} \parallel \overleftrightarrow{EF} \parallel \overleftrightarrow{AC} \rightarrow \frac{BE}{EA} = \frac{DF}{FC}$$

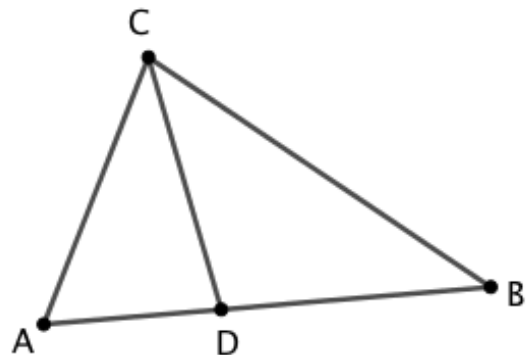


Angle Bisector Proportionality Theorem (\angle Bisector Prop Thm):

The angle bisector of a triangle divides the opposite side of the triangle in the same ratio as that of the two adjacent sides of the angle that is bisected.

Ex: In the diagram below,

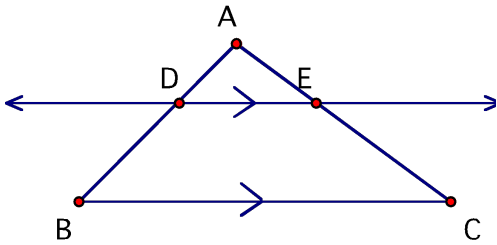
$$\overline{CD} \text{ bisects } \angle ACB \text{ if and only if } \frac{AD}{BD} = \frac{AC}{BC}$$



Let's prove these theorems and corollaries!

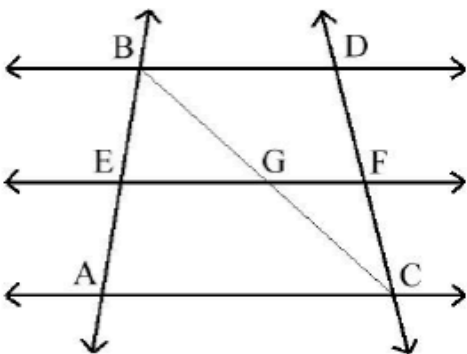
1. Given: $\overleftrightarrow{DE} \parallel \overleftrightarrow{BC}$
 Prove: $\frac{AD}{DB} = \frac{AE}{EC}$

(this proof can just be reversed for the converse)

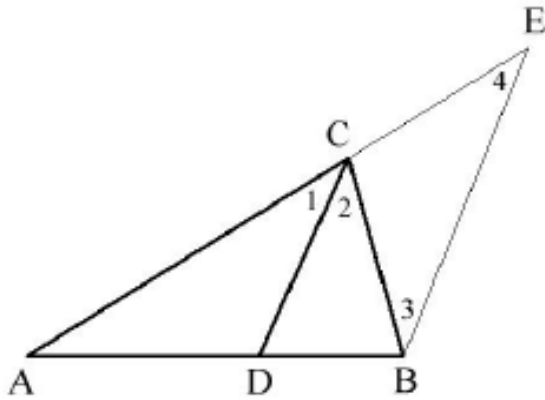


2. Given: $\overleftrightarrow{BD} \parallel \overleftrightarrow{EF} \parallel \overleftrightarrow{AC}$
 Prove: $\frac{BE}{EA} = \frac{DF}{FC}$

(Hint: Draw BC as shown)



3. In this problem, we will prove the Angle Bisector Theorem (\overline{CD} bisects $\angle ACB$ if and only if $\frac{AD}{BD} = \frac{AC}{BC}$)



a. Explain the theorem in your own words.

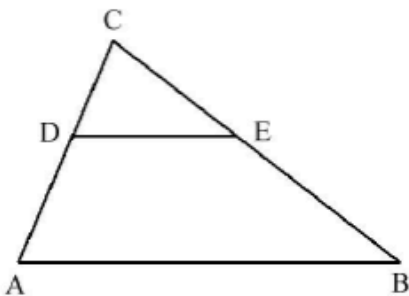
b. To begin the proof, we draw \overline{BE} parallel to \overline{CD} . We also extend \overline{AC} to point E .

Explain why that makes $\frac{AD}{BD} = \frac{AC}{CE}$.

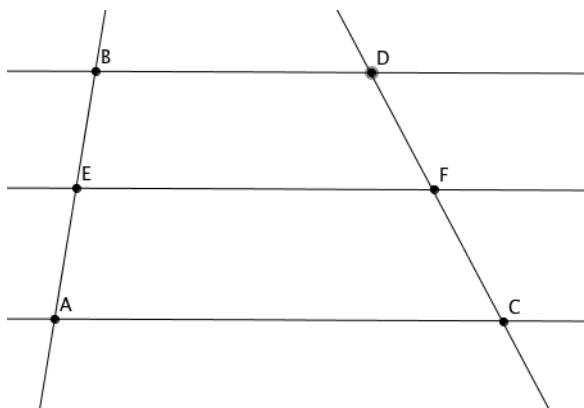
c. Show that $BC = CE$.

d. Show that $\frac{AD}{BD} = \frac{AC}{BC}$.

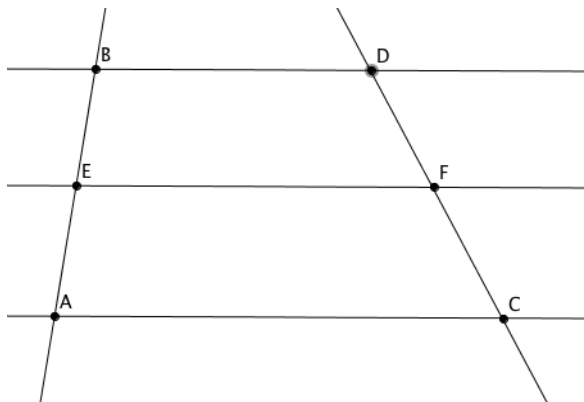
4. In the diagram below, $\overline{DE} \parallel \overline{AB}$, $CE = x - 1$, $BE = x + 1$, $CD = 4$, and $AC = 9$. Find x .



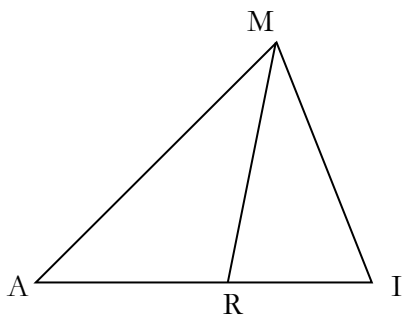
5. Let $AE = x$, $BE = x - 5$, $CF = x - 3$, and $DF = x - 6$. Find the value of x .



6. This time, let $AE = 24$, $BE = 16$, and $CD = 65$. Find CF .



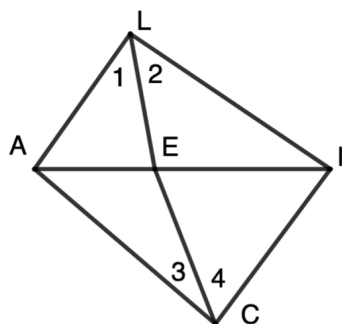
7. \overline{MR} is an angle bisector of $\triangle AMI$. $RI = 6$, $AM = 12$, and $AR = 16$. Find MI .



8. Spend 5-10 minutes writing down important information from today in your notebook. A little bit of studying *now* saves you a whole bunch of studying *later*!

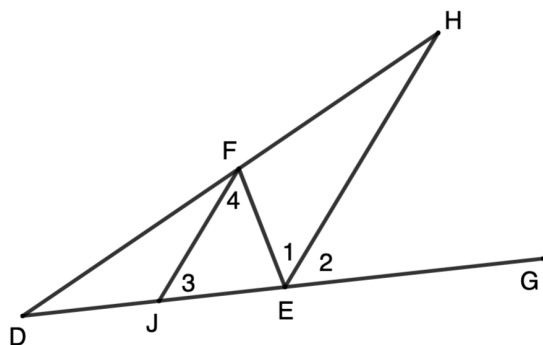
9. Given: $\angle 1 \cong \angle 2$
 $\angle 3 \cong \angle 4$

Prove: $\frac{AL}{LI} = \frac{CA}{CI}$



10. Given: \overline{EH} bisects $\angle FEG$
 $\overline{FJ} \parallel \overline{HE}$

Prove: $\frac{DH}{FH} = \frac{DE}{FE}$



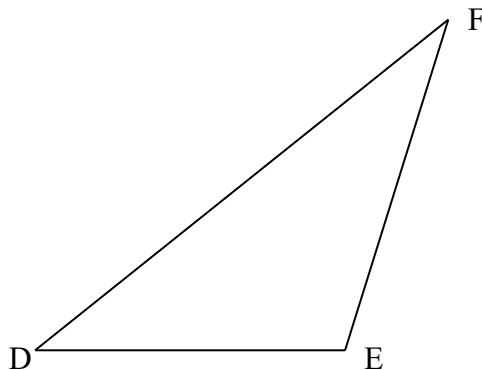
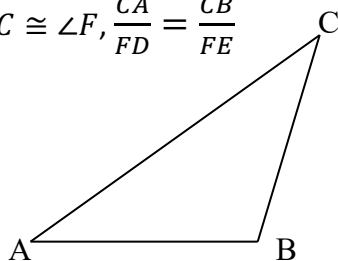
5 – More Ways of Proving Triangles Similar

Advanced Geometry — Similarity Unit

Side-Angle-Side Similarity Theorem (SAS~): If one angle of one triangle is congruent to one angle of another triangle and the lengths of the sides including these angles are proportional, then the triangles are similar.

Proof:

Given: $\triangle ABC$ and $\triangle DEF$, $\angle C \cong \angle F$, $\frac{CA}{FD} = \frac{CB}{FE}$
 Prove: $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$



Claims

1. $\angle C \cong \angle F$, $\frac{CA}{FD} = \frac{CB}{FE}$
2. Construct point X on \overrightarrow{FD} & Y on \overrightarrow{FE} such that $FX = CA$ and $FY = CB$
3. Construct \overline{XY}
4. _____
5. _____
6. $\overline{XY} \parallel \overline{DE}$
7. $\angle D \cong \angle FXY$
8. $\overline{CA} \cong \overline{FX}$ and $\overline{CB} \cong \overline{FY}$
9. _____
10. $\angle A \cong \angle FXY$
11. _____
12. $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$

Reasons

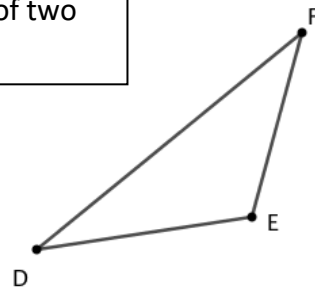
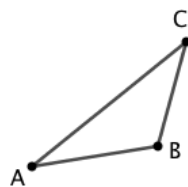
1. Given
2. _____
3. _____
4. Substitution; 1, 2
5. Property of Proportions; 4
6. _____
7. _____
8. Def \cong ; 2
9. SAS \cong ; 1, 8
10. _____
11. Transitive; 7, 10
12. _____

Side-Side-Side Similarity Theorem (SSS~): If the lengths of the corresponding sides of two triangles are proportional, then the triangles are similar.

Proof:

Given: $\frac{AB}{DE} = \frac{BC}{EF} = \frac{AC}{DF}$

Prove: $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$



Claims

Reasons

1. $\frac{AB}{DE} = \frac{BC}{EF} = \frac{AC}{DF}$

1. Given

2. Construct point X on \overline{FD} such that $AC = XF$

2. _____

3. $\overline{AC} \cong \overline{XF}$

3. _____

4. Construct point Y on \overline{FE} and then construct \overline{XY} such that $\overline{XY} \parallel \overline{DE}$.

4. _____

5. $\angle FXY \cong \angle D$

5. _____

6. _____

6. Reflexive

7. $\triangle XYF \sim \triangle DEF$

7. _____

8. $\frac{XY}{DE} = \frac{XF}{DF} = \frac{YF}{EF}$

8. _____

9. $\frac{XY}{DE} = \frac{XF}{DF}$

9. Substitution; 8, 2

10. $\frac{XY}{DE} = \frac{AB}{DE}$

10. _____

11. _____

11. Reflexive

12. $XY = AB$

12. _____

13. _____

13. Def of \cong ; 12

14. $\frac{BC}{EF} = \frac{YF}{EF}$

14. _____

15. _____

15. Reflexive

16. $BC = YF$

16. _____

17. _____

17. Def of \cong

18. _____

18. SSS \cong ; 3, 13, 17

19. $\angle C \cong \angle F$

19. _____

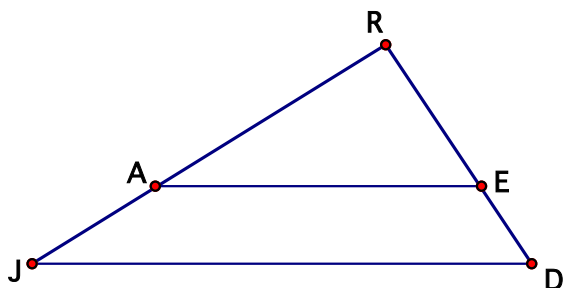
20. $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$

20. _____

1. Complete two of the following three proofs (using separate paper for space if needed)

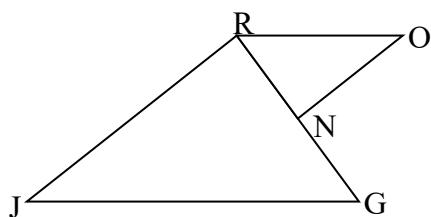
(a) Given: $\frac{JR}{AR} = \frac{DR}{ER}$

Prove: $\frac{JD}{AE} = \frac{JR}{AR}$



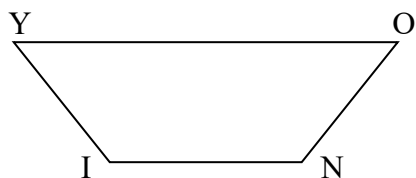
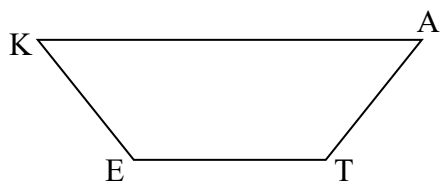
(b) Given: N is the midpoint of RG
 $RJ = 2ON$
 $JG = 2RO$

Prove: $\triangle RJG \sim \triangle NOR$



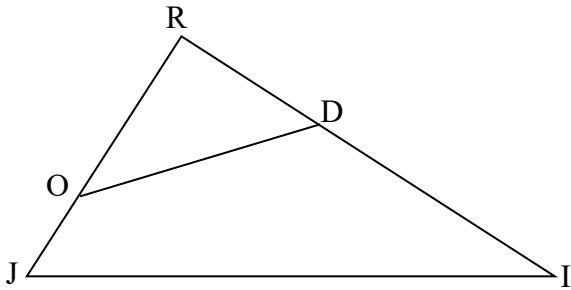
(c) Given: $\triangle KET \sim \triangle YIO$.

Prove: $\frac{EA}{IO} = \frac{KA}{YO}$.



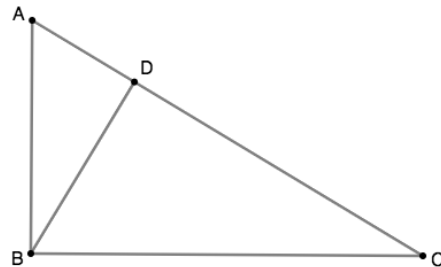
2. Spend 5-10 minutes writing down important information from today in your notebook. A little bit of studying *now* saves you a whole bunch of studying *later*!

3. In the diagram below, $JO = 1$, $RO = 3$, $RD = 2$, $DI = 4$, and $OD = 4$. Find JI .



4. In the diagram to the right $AD = 2$, $DC = 4$, $\overline{AB} \perp \overline{BC}$, and $\overline{BD} \perp \overline{AC}$.

a. Show that $\triangle ADB \sim \triangle ABC$.



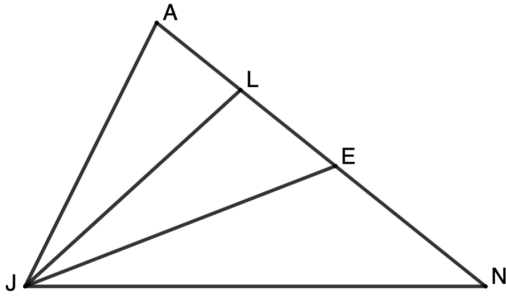
b. Show that $\triangle BDC \sim \triangle ABC$.

c. Show that $\triangle ADB \sim \triangle BDC$.

d. Find BD , AB , and BC .

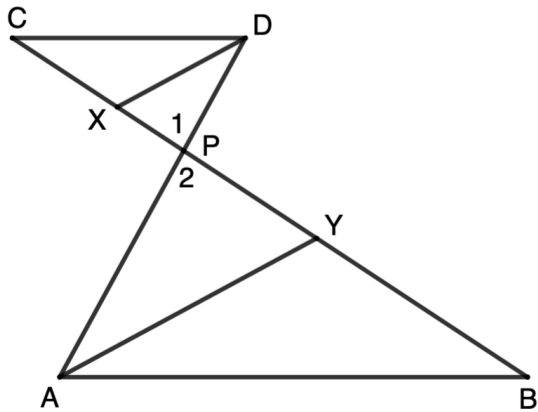
5. In the diagram below, $\angle AJL \cong \angle LJE \cong \angle EJN$.

Explain why it is *impossible* to have $AL = 1$, $LE = 2$, and $EN = 4$. (Hint: Use **indirect** reasoning.)



6. Given: $\frac{CX}{BY} = \frac{CD}{BA} = \frac{DX}{AY}$

Prove: $AP \cdot CP = BP \cdot DP$.



6 – Areas of Similar Polygons

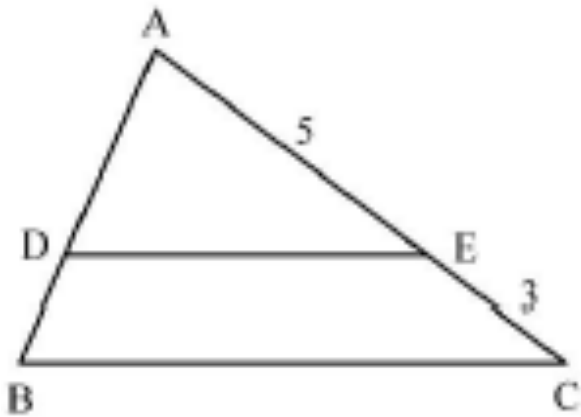
Advanced Geometry — Similarity Unit

Area of Similar Polygons Theorem (AST): If two polygons are similar, then the ratio of their areas is equal to the square of the constant of proportionality.

1. The constant of proportionality of two similar triangles is 4:7. If the area of the larger Δ is 441, find the area of the smaller Δ .

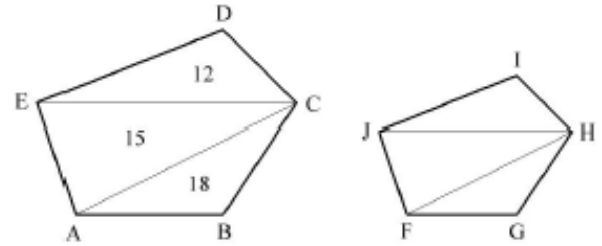
2. Two similar triangles have areas 12 and 27. One side of the smaller triangle has length 6. Find the length of the corresponding side of the larger triangle. Hint: it helps to reduce the area ratio.

3. Suppose $\overline{DE} \parallel \overline{BC}$ and the area of ΔADE is 10. Find the area of trapezoid $BDEC$.



4. In this problem you will show that *all* similar polygons follow the same rule for area, not just triangles.
Consider the similar pentagons shown below.

a) Show that $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle FGH$, $\triangle ACE \sim \triangle FHJ$, and $\triangle DEC \sim \triangle IJH$
These don't have to be full proofs, just outlines of your arguments.

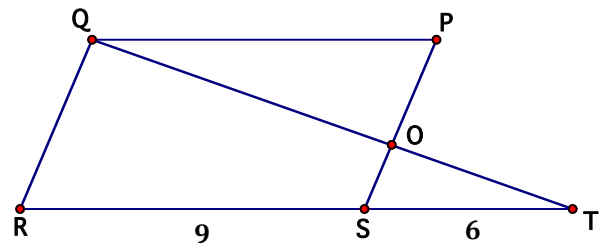


b) Suppose $\frac{AB}{FG} = \frac{3}{2}$. Also suppose that $\triangle ABC$, $\triangle ACE$ and $\triangle DEC$ have areas 18, 15, and 12, respectively.
Find the areas of $\triangle FGH$, $\triangle FHJ$, and $\triangle IJH$.

c) Using your results from (b), find the ratio of the areas of the two pentagons.
How does this ratio relate to the constant of proportionality of the two pentagons?

5. In the diagram below, $PQRS$ is a parallelogram.
Find the ratio of the areas for each pair of triangles.

a) $\triangle TOS$ and $\triangle QOP$.



b) $\triangle TOS$ and $\triangle TQR$.

6. Spend 5-10 minutes writing down important information from today in your notebook. A little bit of studying *now* saves you a whole bunch of studying *later*!

7. One side of a pentagon is 1 cm shorter than the corresponding side of a similar pentagon. The areas of the pentagons are 2cm^2 and 18cm^2 , respectively. Find the lengths of the two corresponding sides.

8. The length of a side of an n -sided regular polygon is 36. The area of a second polygon similar to the first is $\frac{81}{16}$ times the area of the first. The difference between the perimeters is 855. Find the value of n .

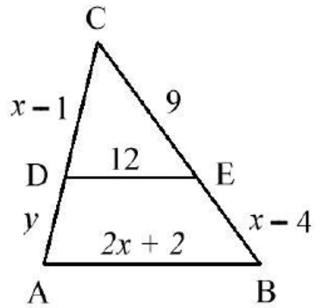
9. In $\triangle LMN$, altitude LK is 12 cm long. Through point J of LK , a line is drawn parallel to MN , dividing the triangle into two regions with equal areas. Find LJ .

8 – Unit Review Problems

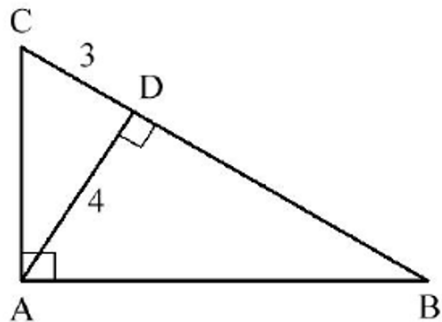
Advanced Geometry — Similarity Unit

1. a) \overline{PQ} has length 48 and point R is between P and Q so that $PR : QR = 3 : 13$. Find PR .
- b) The angles of a pentagon are in the ratio $1 : 4 : 7 : 7 : 8$. Find the measure of the largest angle.

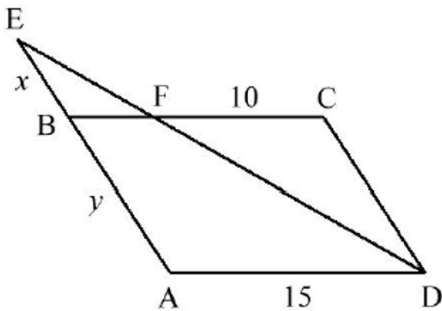
2. In the diagram below, $\overline{DE} \parallel \overline{AB}$. Find x and y .



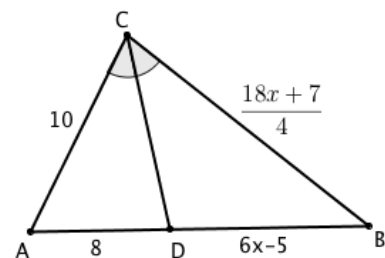
3. In the diagram below, $\overline{AC} \perp \overline{AB}$ and $\overline{AD} \perp \overline{BC}$. Find AB .



4. $ABCD$ is a parallelogram and $AE = 12$. Find x and y .

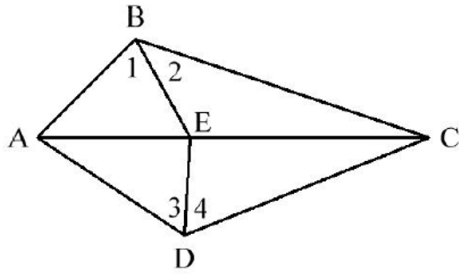


5. In the diagram below, $\angle ACD \cong \angle BCD$. Solve for x .



6. Given: $\angle 1 \cong \angle 2$
 $\angle 3 \cong \angle 4$

Prove: $AB \cdot CD = BC \cdot AD$



7. Given: $\frac{CE}{AC} = \frac{CD}{BC}$

Prove: $EF \cdot AF = DF \cdot BF$

