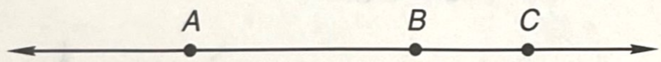
LESSON A *Geometry Review • Angles • Review of Absolute Value • Properties and Definitions*

A.A geometry review

Some fundamental mathematical terms are impossible to define exactly. We call these terms **primitive terms** or **undefined terms.** We define these terms as best we can and then use them to define other terms. The words **point, curve, line,** and **plane** are primitive terms.

A **point** is a location. When we put a dot on a piece of paper to mark a location, the dot is not the point, because a mathematical point has no size and the dot does have size. We say that the dot is the **graph** of the mathematical point and marks the location of the point. A **curve** is an unbroken connection of points. Since points have no size, they cannot really be connected. Thus, we prefer to say that a curve defines the path traveled by a moving point. We can use a pencil to graph a curve. These figures are curves.

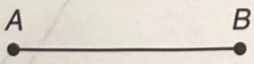
A mathematical **line** is a straight curve that has no ends. **Only one mathematical line can be drawn that passes through two designated points.** Since a line defines the path of a moving point that has no width, a line has no width. The pencil line that we draw marks the location of the mathematical line. When we use a pencil to draw the graph of a mathematical line, we often put arrowheads on the ends of the pencil line to emphasize that the mathematical line has no ends.



We can name a line by naming any two points on the line in any order. The line above can be called line *AB,* line *BA,* line *AC,* line *CA,* line *BC,* or line *CB.* Instead of writing the word *line,* we can put a bar with two arrowheads above the letters, as we show here.

$$\overleftrightarrow{AB} \quad \overleftrightarrow{BA} \quad \overleftrightarrow{AC} \quad \overleftrightarrow{CA} \quad \overleftrightarrow{BC} \quad \overleftrightarrow{CB}$$

These notations are read as "line *AB,*" "line *BA,*" etc. We remember that a part of a line is called a **line segment** or just a **segment.** A segment has two endpoints. A segment can be named by naming the two endpoints in any order. The following segment can be called segment *AB* or segment *BA.*



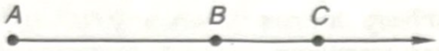
Instead of writing the word *segment,* we can draw a bar with no arrowheads above the letters. Segment *AB* and segment *BA* can be written as

$$\overline{AB} \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{BA}$$

If we write the letters without using the bar, we are designating the length of the segment. If segment AB has a length of 2 centimeters, we could write either

$$AB = 2 \text{ cm} \qquad \text{or} \qquad BA = 2 \text{ cm}$$

A **ray** is sometimes called a **half line.** A ray has one endpoint, the beginning point, called the **origin.** The ray shown here begins at point A, goes through points B and C, and continues without end.

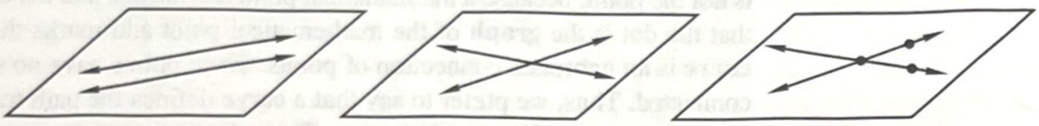


When we name a ray, we must name the origin first and then name any other point on the ray. We can name a ray by using a line segment with one arrowhead. The ray shown above can be named by writing either

$$\overrightarrow{AB} \qquad \text{or} \qquad \overrightarrow{AC}$$

These notations are read by saying "ray AB" and "ray AC."

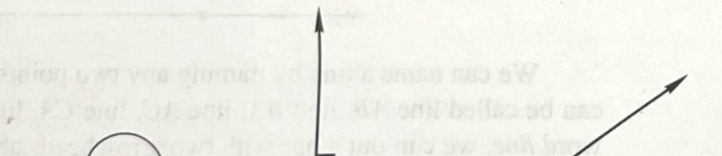
A **plane** is a flat surface that has no boundaries and no thickness. Two lines in the same plane either **intersect** (cross) or do not intersect. Lines in the same plane that do not intersect are called **parallel lines.** All points that lie on either of two intersecting lines are in the plane that contains the lines. We say that these intersecting lines determine the plane. Since three points that are not on the same line determine two intersecting lines, we see that three points that are not on the same line also determine a plane.



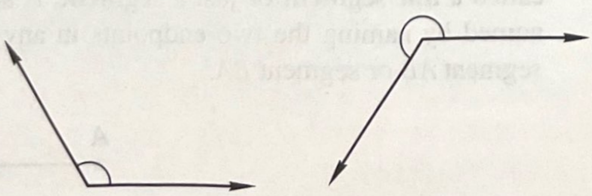
Parallel lines Intersecting lines Three points

A.B angles

The word **angle** comes from the Latin word *angulum,* meaning "corner." An angle is formed by two rays that have a common endpoint. If the rays point in opposite directions, we say that the angle formed is a **straight angle.** If the rays make a square corner, we say that the rays are **perpendicular** and that the angle formed is a **right angle.** We often use a small square, as in the following figure, to designate a right angle. If the angle is smaller than a right angle, it is an **acute angle.** An angle greater than a right angle but less than a straight angle is called an **obtuse angle.** An angle greater than a straight angle but less than two straight angles is called a **reflex angle.**



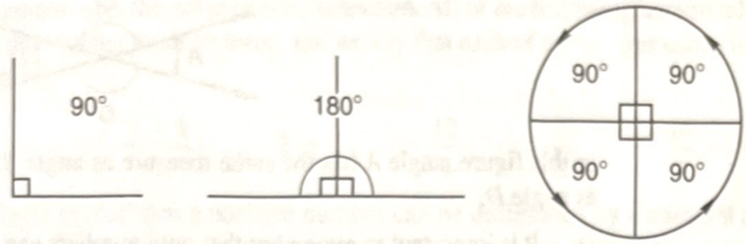
Straight angle Right angle Acute angle



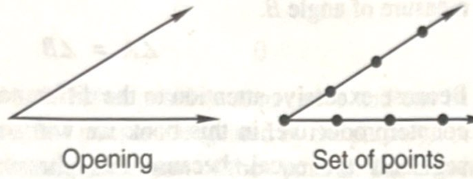
Obtuse angle Reflex angle

If a right angle is divided into 90 parts, we say that each part has a measure of 1 degree. Thus, a right angle is a **90-degree angle.** Two right angles make a straight angle, so a

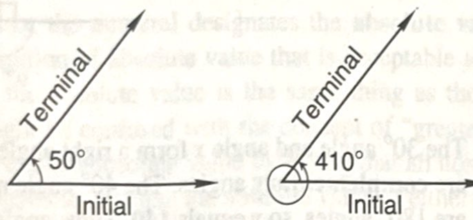
straight angle is a 180-degree angle. Four right angles form a **360-degree angle.** Thus, the measure of a circle is 360 degrees. We use a small raised circle to denote degrees. Thus, we can write 90 degrees, 180 degrees, and 360 degrees as 90°, 180°, and 360°.



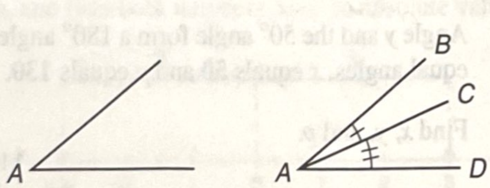
European authors tend to define an angle to be the **opening** between two rays. Authors of U.S. geometry books tend to define the angle to be the **set of points** determined by the two rays.



Authors of trigonometry books prefer to define an angle to be a **rotation** of a ray about its endpoint from an **initial position** to a final position called the **terminal position.** We see that the rotation definition permits us to distinguish between a 50° angle and a 410° angle even though the initial and terminal positions are the same.

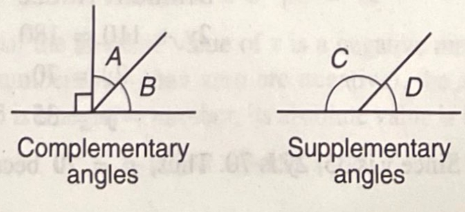


Some angles can be named by using a single letter preceded by the symbol $\angle$. The notation $\angle A$ is read as "angle *A*." Some angles require that we use three letters to name the angle. The notation $\angle BAD$ is read as "angle *BAD*." When we use three letters, the middle letter names the **vertex** of the angle, which is the point where the two rays of the angle intersect. The other two letters name a point on one ray and a point on the other ray.

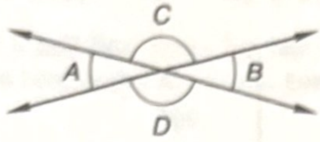


The angle on the left is $\angle A$. The figure on the right has three angles. The big angle is $\angle BAD$. Angle *BAC* and angle *CAD* are called **adjacent angles** because they have the same vertex, share a common side, and do not overlap (i.e., do not have any common interior points).

If the sum of the measures of two angles is 90°, the angles are called **complementary angles.** If the sum of the measures of two angles is 180°, the angles are called **supplementary angles.**



In the figures in this book, lines that appear to be straight are straight. Two intersecting lines (all lines are straight lines) form four angles. The angles that are opposite each other are called vertical angles. Vertical angles are equal angles.



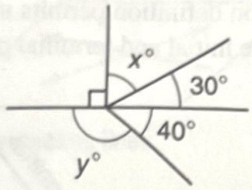
In this figure, angle A has the same measure as angle B, and angle C has the same measure as angle D.

It is important to remember that only numbers can be equal. **If we say that two angles are equal, we mean that the number that describes the measure of one angle is equal to the number that describes the measure of the other angle. If we say that two line segments are equal, we mean that the numbers that describe the lengths of the segments are equal.** Both of the following notations tell us that the measure of angle A equals the measure of angle B.

$$\angle A = \angle B \qquad m\angle A = m\angle B$$

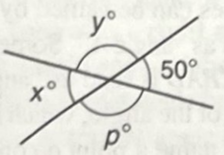
Because excessive attention to the difference between *equal* and *equal measure* tends to be counterproductive, in this book we will sometimes say that angles are equal or that line segments are equal, because this phrasing is easily understood. **However, we must remember that when we use the words *equal angles* or *equal segments*, we are describing angles whose measures are equal and segments whose lengths are equal.**

example A.1 Find x and y.



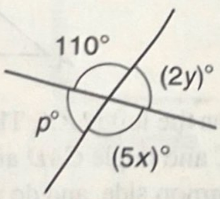
solution The 30° angle and angle x form a right angle, so x equals **60.** Thus, angle x and the 30° angle are **complementary** angles. The 40° angle and angle y form a straight angle. Straight angles are 180° angles, so y equals **140.** Thus, angle y and the 40° angle are **supplementary** angles.

example A.2 Find x, y, and p.



solution Angle y and the 50° angle form a 180° angle. Thus, y equals **130.** Because vertical angles are equal angles, x equals **50** and p equals **130.**

example A.3 Find x, y, and p.



solution This problem allows us to use the fact that if two angles form a straight angle, the sum of their measures is 180°. We see that angle $2y$ and 110° form a straight angle. Also, $5x$ must equal 110° because vertical angles are equal.

STRAIGHT ANGLE	VERTICAL ANGLE
$2y + 110 = 180$	$5x = 110$
$2y = 70$	$\mathbf{x = 22}$
$\mathbf{y = 35}$	

Since y is 35, $2y$ is 70. Thus, $\mathbf{p = 70}$ because vertical angles are equal.

A.C review of absolute value

A number is an idea. A numerical expression is often called a numeral and is a single symbol or a collection of symbols that designates a particular number. We say that the number designated is the value of the expression. All of the following numerical expressions designate the number positive three, and we say that each of these expressions has a value of positive three.

$$3 \qquad \frac{7+8}{5} \qquad 2+1 \qquad \frac{12}{4} \qquad \frac{75}{25} \qquad \frac{16}{2}-5$$

We have agreed that a positive number can be designated by a numeral preceded by a plus sign or by a numeral without a sign. Thus, we can designate positive three by writing either

$$+3 \qquad \text{or} \qquad 3$$

The number zero is neither positive nor negative and can be designated with the single symbol

$$0$$

Every other real number is either positive or negative and can be thought of as having two qualities or parts. One of the parts is designated by the plus sign or the minus sign. The other part is designated by the numerical part of the numeral. The two numerals

$$+3 \qquad \text{and} \qquad -3$$

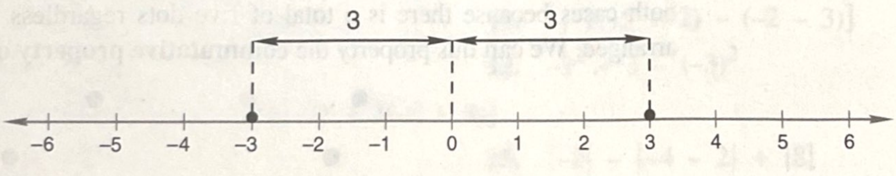
designate a positive number and a negative number. The signs of the numerals are different, but the numerical part of each is

$$3$$

We say that this part of the numeral designates the **absolute value** of the number. It is difficult to find a definition of absolute value that is acceptable to everyone. Some people object to saying that the absolute value is the same thing as the "bigness" of a number, because "bigness" might be confused with the concept of "greater than," which is used to order numbers. Some explain absolute value by saying that all nonzero real numbers can be paired, each with its opposite, and that the absolute value of either is the positive member of the pair. Thus,

$$+3 \qquad \text{and} \qquad -3$$

are a pair of opposites, and both have an absolute value of 3. Other people prefer to define the absolute value of a number as the number that describes the distance of the graph of the number from the origin. If we use this definition, we see that the graphs of +3 and –3 are both 3 units from the origin, and thus both numbers have an absolute value of 3.



Some people feel that words should not be used to define absolute value, because absolute value can be defined exactly by using only symbols and using two vertical lines to indicate absolute value. This definition is in three parts. Unfortunately, the third part can be confusing.

(a) If $x > 0$, $|x| = x$

(b) If $x = 0$, $|x| = x$

(c) If $x < 0$, $|x| = -x$

Part (c) does not say that the absolute value of x is a negative number. It says that if x is a negative number (all numbers less than zero are negative), the absolute value of x is the opposite of x. Since –15 is a negative number, its absolute value is its opposite, which is +15.

$$|-15| = -(-15) = 15$$

In the same way, if we designate the absolute value of an algebraic expression such as

$$|x + 2|$$

and x has a value such that $x + 2$ is a negative number, then the absolute value of the expression will be the negative of the expression. If $x + 2 < 0$,

$$|x + 2| = -(x + 2)$$

To demonstrate, we give x a value of –5, and then we will have

$$|-5 + 2| = |-3| = -(-3) = +3$$

No matter how we think of absolute value, we must remember that the absolute value of zero is zero and that the absolute value of every other real number is a positive number.

$$|0| = 0 \qquad |-5| = 5 \qquad |5| = 5 \qquad |-2.5| = 2.5$$

In this book we will sometimes use the word *number* when the word *numeral* would be more accurate. We do this because overemphasizing the distinction between the two words can be counterproductive.

example A.4 Simplify: $-|-4| - 2 + |-5|$

solution We will simplify in two steps.

$$-4 - 2 + 5 \qquad \text{simplified}$$
$$-1 \qquad \text{added algebraically}$$

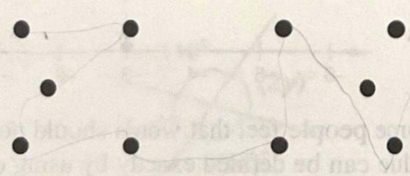
A.D properties and definitions

Understanding algebra is easier if we make an effort to remember the difference between properties and definitions. A **property** describes the way something is. We can't change properties. We are stuck with properties because they are what they are. For instance,

$$3 + 2 = 5 \qquad \text{and} \qquad 2 + 3 = 5$$

The order of addition of two real numbers does not change the answer. We can understand this property better if we use dots rather than numerals.

Here we have represented the number 5 with 5 dots. Now, on the left below we separate the dots to show what we mean by $3 + 2$, and on the right we show $2 + 3$. The answer is 5 in both cases because there is a total of five dots regardless of the way in which they are arranged. We call this property the **commutative property of real numbers in addition.**



$3 + 2$ $\qquad$ $2 + 3$

Definitions are different because they are things that we have agreed on. For instance,

$$3^2 \qquad \text{means} \qquad 3 \text{ times } 3$$

It did not have to mean that. We could have used 3^2 to mean "3 times 2," but we did not. We note that the order of operations is also a definition. When we write

$$3 + 4 \cdot 5$$

we could mean to multiply first or to add first. Since we cannot have two different answers to the same problem, it is necessary to agree on the meaning of the notation. We have agreed to do multiplication before algebraic addition, and so this expression represents the number +23.

Also, when we wish to write the negative of 3^2, we write

$$-3^2$$

When we wish to indicate that the quantity -3 is to be squared, we write

$$(-3)^2$$

These are definitions of what we mean when we write

$$-3^2 \quad \text{and} \quad (-3)^2$$

and there is nothing to understand. We have defined these notations to have the meanings shown.

The first problem set contains review problems that require us to simplify expressions that contain signed numbers. When these expressions are simplified, try to remember which steps can be justified by properties and which steps can be justified by definitions.

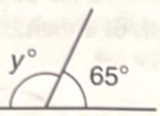
example A.5 Simplify: $(-2)^3 - 2^2 - (-2)^2$

solution First we simplify each expression. Then we work the problem.

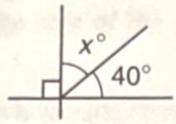
$$-8 - 4 - 4 \qquad \text{simplified}$$
$$\mathbf{-16} \qquad \text{added algebraically}$$

problem set A

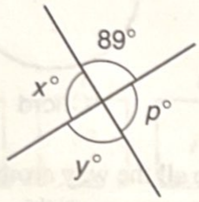
1. Find y.



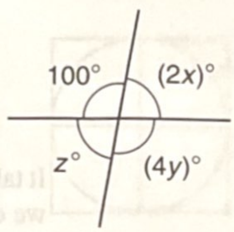
2. Find x.



3. Find x, y, and p.



4. Find x, y, and z.



5. The supplement of an angle is 40°. What is the angle?
6. The complement of an angle is 40°. What is the angle?

The following problems review operations with signed numbers. Remember that $(-2)^2$ means $(-2)(-2)$, which equals $+4$, and that -2^2 means $-(2)(2)$, which equals -4.

Simplify:

7. $-2 - (-2)$
8. $-3 - [-(-2)]$
9. $-2 - 3(-2 - 2) - 5(-5 + 7)$
10. $-[-2(-5 + 2) - (-2 - 3)]$
11. $-2 + (-2)^3$
12. $-3^2 - 3 - (-3)^2$
13. $-3(-2 - 3 + 6) - [-5(-2) + 3(-2 - 4)]$
14. $-2 - 2^2 - 2^3 - 2^4$
15. $|-2| - |-4 - 2| + |8|$
16. $-|-3(2) - 3| - 2^2$
17. $-2^2 - 2^3 - |-2| - 2$
18. $-3[-1 - 2(-1 - 1)][-3(-2) - 1]$
19. $-3[-3(-4 - 1) - (-3 - 4)]$
20. $-2[(-3 + 1) - (-2 - 2)(-1 + 3)]$
21. $-2[-2(-4) - 2^3](-|2|)$
22. $-8 - 3^2 - (-2)^2 - 3(-2) + 2$
23. $-\{-[-5(-3 + 2)7]\}$
24. $-5 - |-3 - 4| - (3)^2 - 3$
25. $3(-2 + 5) - 2^2(2 - 3) - |-2|$
26. $\dfrac{-5 - (-2) + 8 - 4(5)}{6 - 4(-3)}$
27. $(-2)[|-3 - 4 - 5| - 2^3 - (-1)]$
28. $\dfrac{-3 - (-2) + 9 - (-5)}{7(|-3 + 4|)}$
29. $4(-2)[-(7 - 3)(5 - 2)2]$
30. $4 - (-4) - 5(3 - 1) + 3(4)(-2)^3$