

Worksheet: Set-theoretic notations and terminology **Solutions**

1. Write the following sets using “set builder” notation:

(a) The set of *real* solutions to $x^2 - 2x < 3$. $\{x \in \mathbb{R} : x^2 - 2x < 3\}$

(b) The set of *integer solutions* to $x^2 - 2x < 3$. $\{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x^2 - 2x < 3\}$

(c) The set of odd integers. $\{2k + 1 : k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$

(d) The set of odd natural numbers. $\{2k - 1 : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

Note that we need $2k - 1$, not $2k + 1$, so that the number 1 is counted. An alternative would be $\{2k + 1 : k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}\}$.

(e) The set $\{1, 4, 7, 10, \dots\}$. $\{3k - 2 : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$

(f) The set of integers that can be written as sums of two integer squares. (The first few such integers are $0 = 0^2 + 0^2$, $1 = 0^2 + 1^2 = 1$, $2 = 1^2 + 1^2$, $4 = 0^2 + 2^2$.) $\{n^2 + m^2 : n, m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$

2. Given $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, $B = \{0, 1\}$, find the following sets. *Be sure to use correct set-theoretic notation.*

(a) $A - B$ $\{2, 3, 4\}$

(b) $B - A$ $\{0\}$

(c) $A \times B$ $\{(1, 0), (2, 0), (3, 0), (4, 0), (1, 1), (2, 1), (3, 1), (4, 1)\}$

(d) $P(B)$ $\{\emptyset, \{0\}, \{1\}, \{0, 1\}\}$

(e) $B \times \mathbb{N}$ $\{(0, 1), (0, 2), (0, 3), \dots, (1, 1), (1, 2), (1, 3), \dots\}$

3. In the following, E, O denote, respectively, the sets of even integers and odd integers. In each case, write the given set in simpler form.

(a) $\{p/q : p, q \in E, q \in \mathbb{Z}, q \neq 0\}$ \mathbb{Q}

(b) $\{1/q : q \in \mathbb{Q}, q \neq 0\}$ $\mathbb{Q} - \{0\}$

(c) $(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}) \cap (\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{N})$ $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$

(d) $(\mathbb{Z} - E) \cup (\mathbb{Z} - O)$ \mathbb{Z}

4. Let $A = \{1, 2\}$ and $B = \{\{1\}, 2\}$. Determine which of the following relations are true:

(a) $\{1\} \in A$ **FALSE** ($\{1\}$ is a subset of A , not an element)

(b) $\{1\} \subseteq A$ **TRUE**

(c) $\{1\} \in P(A)$ **TRUE** (since the elements of a power set are the subsets of A)

(d) $\{1\} \subseteq P(A)$ **FALSE**

(e) $\{1\} \in B$ **TRUE**

(f) $\{1\} \subseteq B$ **FALSE**

(g) $\{1\} \in P(B)$ **FALSE** (but $\{\{1\}\} \in P(B)$ is **TRUE**)

(h) $\{1\} \subseteq P(B)$ **FALSE**