

Math Words Matching Game

Megan Selbach-Allen, Pranav Nuti, Shintaro Fushida-Hardy

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1 Goals

The goals of this activity are:

1. To give students some familiarity with words used repeatedly in mathematics textbooks, like *theorem* and *lemma*.
2. To help students understand that different mathematicians use these words differently.

2 Materials

For this activity you will need:

1. Sets of cards: Each set has 9 math word cards, and three additional cards per each math word with three (slightly) different definitions of the word.

3 Instructions

This activity will take approximately 30 minutes.

1. For 10 minutes, hold a classroom discussion about the textbook, asking students to comment on how it differs from other books they've seen, like novels or magazine or textbooks in high school.
2. Form groups of 3 to 4 students, give each group a set of cards, and explain the goals of the activity. Explain that students need to match the words to their definitions, and that they are allowed to use a search engine.
3. As students work on matching, visit each group to answer any questions they may have.
4. At the end, answer any lingering questions about terminology.

4 Tips

1. Follow this activity with the activity about the dot product which has example usages of each of the math words.
2. Offer a special prize to any group which can figure out which definitions you wrote.