# The Ultimate Maths Vocabulary List

The 96 Words Every Pupil Needs to Know by the End of Year 6

KS1 & KS2

# How to Use This Resource

An essential building block in pupil's understanding of maths is their knowledge of and correct use of the key words and terminology in Maths. On the following pages you'll find the key 96 words your pupils should be able to understand and explain.

To really embed their knowledge of maths terminology however we recommend you actually encourage them to build their own maths vocabulary list. You can use our list or parts of our list as a prompt to get them started or hand it out in full and encourage them to add to it.

Children are much more likely to remember the meanings and terms of mathematical words and phrases if they have constructed the pages for themselves. They can choose vocabulary which reflects their age range, and once made, the dictionary can be accessed and used frequently during maths activities.

# Maths Vocabulary List

Use the following A-Z of key concepts to help you get started creating your own dictionary of terms:

**A**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Acute | Describes angles between 0 and 90 degrees. | |
| Adjacent | Adjoining (as used to describe lines and angles). | |
| Alternate | Every other one in a sequence. | |
| Angle | The number of degrees rotated around a point. | |
| Area | The amount of space within a perimeter (expressed in square units). | |
| Ascending order | The arrangement of numbers from smallest to largest. | |
| Average | A number representing a set of numbers (obtained by dividing the total of the numbers by the numbers itself). | |
| Axis of symmetry | A line dividing a shape into two symmetrical parts. | |
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**B**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---------|------------|----------|
| Baker's dozen | The colloquial name given to the number 13. | |
| Base | The line or face on which a shape is standing. | |
| Base angles | Those angles adjacent to the base of a shape. | |
| Bisect | To divide into two equal parts. | |
| Breadth | Breadth is another name for width. It is the distance across from side to side. | |
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C

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Capacity | The amount of space in the of an object (the amount of liquid or air it contains). | |
| Cardinal number | A number that shows quantity but not order. | |
| Carroll Diagram | A problem-solving diagram used in classification activities. | |
| Circumference | The distance around a circle (its perimeter). | |
| Composite number | A number with more than two factors. | |
| Congruent | Congruent shapes are the same shape and size (equal). | |
| Consecutive | Consecutive numbers follow in order without interruption (e.g. 2,3,4,5). | |
| Coordinates | Numbers used to locate a point on a grid. | |
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## D

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Denominator | The number below the line in a fraction. | |
| Descending order | The arrangement of numbers from the largest to smallest. | |
| Diagonal | A straight line connecting two non-adjacent vertices (corners) of a polygon. | |
| Difference | By how much a number is bigger or smaller than another. | |
| Digit | Any number from 0 to 9 (inclusive). | |
| Digital root | The digital root of 58 is 4 because 5 + 8 = 13 and 1 + 3 = 4 | |
| Dimensions | The measurements of a shape (i.e. length, width, height). | |
| Dodecagon | A twelve sided polygon. | |
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**E**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Edge | The intersection of two faces of a three-dimensional object. | |
| Equation | A statement of equality between two expressions (e.g. 3 x 4 = 6 + 6). | |
| Equilateral triangle | A triangle with congruent (equal) sides and angles. | |
| Even number | A positive or negative number exactly divisible by 2. | |
| Exterior | Outside. | |
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**F**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Face | A plane surface of a three-dimensional object. | |
| Face value | The numeral itself despite its position in a number (e.g. the face value of 8 in 38,250 is 8). | |
| Factor | A number which will divide exactly into another number. | |
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**G**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Greater than | An inequality between numbers. The symbol used to represent greater than is an arrow pointing towards the smallest number. | |
| Gross | The name given to the number 144. | |
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**H**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Hendecagon | A two dimensional shape with eleven sides and eleven angles also called an undecagon. | |
| Heptagon | A two dimensional shape with seven sides and seven angles also called a septagon. | |
| Hexagon | A polygon with six sides. | |
| Horizontal | Describes a line or plane parallel to the earth's surface. | |
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**I**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Improper fraction | A fraction whose numerator is equal to or greater than it denominator. | |
| Integer | A negative or positive whole number. | |
| Interior | Inside. | |
| Intersection | The point or line where two lines or two faces meet. | |
| Irregular shapes | Shapes which do not have all congruent sides and all congruent angles. | |
| Isosceles triangle | A triangle which has two equal sides of equal length. | |
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**K**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
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| Kite | A quadrilateral that has two adjacent pairs of sides that are equal in length, and at least one pair of opposite angles are equal. | |
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**L**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
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| Less than | An inequality between numbers. The symbol used to represent less than is an arrow pointing towards the smallest number. | |
| Line of symmetry | (See axis of symmetry). | |
| Lozenge | Another name for a rhombus. | |
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**M**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
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| Mean | The average of a set of numbers. The sum of the values in a set of data divided by the total number of items in that set. | |
| Median | The middle value of a set of ordered data. | |
| Mode | The value that occurs the most often in a set of data. | |
| Multiple | The product of a given number with another factor. | |
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N

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
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| Numerator | The number above the line in a fraction. | |
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## O

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Oblique | Oblique means sloping or slanting. | |
| Oblong | A shape with two pairs of straight, unequal sides and four right angles. Also known as a rectangle. | |
| Obtuse angle | An angle between 90 and 180 degrees. | |
| Octagon | A polygon with eight sides and eight angles. | |
| Odd number | A number that when divided by two leaves a remainder of one. | |
| Ordinal number | Describes a position in a number sequence. | |
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**P**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| Parallel lines | Lines with no common points and always the same distance apart. | |
| Parallelogram | A four-sided polygon with opposite sides equal and parallel and the opposite angles are equal in size. | |
| Perimeter | The length of the distance around the boundary of a shape. | |
| Perpendicular line | A line at right angles to another line or plane. | |
| Polyhedron | A three dimensional shape with plane faces. | |
| Place value | Indicates the position of a numeral (e.g. the place value of the 3 in 738 is 30) | |
| Prime number | A number with only two factors, 1 and itself (e.g. 2,3,5,7,11, 13, 17, 19, 23…) | |
| Product | The result when two or more numbers are multiplied. | |
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**Q**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| Quadrant | A quarter of the area of a circle which also contains a right angle. | |
| Quotient | The result when one number is divided by another number. | |
| Quindecagon | A polygon with fifteen sides and fifteen angles. | |
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R

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Rectangle | A quadrilateral with opposite sides equal and parallel and containing four right angles. | |
| Reflex angle | An angle greater than 180 degrees. | |
| Rhombus | A parallelogram with congruent sides. Opposite sides are parallel and opposite sides are equal in size. | |
| Roman numerals | Seven letters are used in combination to write numbers:<br><br>$I = 1$ $V = 5$<br><br>$X = 10$ $L = 50$<br><br>$C = 100$ $D = 500$<br><br>$M = 1000$ | |
| Rotational symmetry | A shape is said to have rotational symmetry if it looks the same in different positions when rotated about its centre. | |
| Rounding | An approximation used to express a number in a more convenient way. | |
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**S**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Scalene triangle | A triangle that has three sides of different length and no equal angles. | |
| Score | The name given to the number 20. | |
| Squared | A number squared is a number multiplied by itself. | |
| Square number | A number whose units can be arranged into a square (e.g. 1,4,9,16,25,36,49,64…) | |
| Sum | The result when two or more numbers are added together. | |
| Symmetrical | A shape is symmetrical if it is identical on either side of a line dividing it into two parts. | |
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**T**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
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| Tally | A record of items using vertical and oblique lines to represent each item. | |
| Tetragon | A four sided shape. | |
| Tessellation | Shapes fitted together with a number of exact copies and with no overlaps or gaps. | |
| Translation | This takes place when a shape is moved from one place to another just by sliding it (without rotating, reflecting or enlarging). | |
| Trapezium | A quadrilateral with two parallel sides. | |
| Triangular number | A number whose units can be arranged into a triangle (e.g. 1, 3, 6, 10, 15, 21…) | |
| Trigon | A three sided shape. | |
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**V**

| Concept | Definition | My Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Vertex | The point at which two or more line segments or two or more edges of a polyhedron meet. | |
| Vertical line | A line which is at right angles to a horizontal line. | |
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