



**THIRD SPACE
LEARNING**

The Ultimate Math Vocabulary List

The 123 Words Every Student
Needs to Know by the
End of 2nd Grade

Grades K-2

How to Use This Resource

An essential building block in students' understanding of math is their knowledge of and correct use of the key words and terminology. On the following pages, you'll find the key 123 terms your students should be able to understand and explain.

To really embed their knowledge of math terminology, however, we recommend you actually encourage them to build their own math 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.

Students 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 math activities.

Math 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
Add	To combine or join together. Also known as joining	
Analog clock	A clock with numbers 1 to 12 around the face and rotating hands to show hours, minutes, and seconds	
Angle	Two rays that share an endpoint	
Array	An arrangement of objects, pictures, or numbers in columns and rows	
Associative property of addition	The sum of three or more numbers remains the same no matter how the numbers are group. The focus is looking for groups of 10 $7 + 2 + 8 = 7 + 10 = 17$	
Attributes	The characteristics or properties of a shape or an object, such as color, size, number of sides, length, or time	

B

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Bar graph	A graph with rectangular bars showing how large each value is. The bars can be horizontal or vertical	
Base	The bottom of a shape, solid, or three dimensional object	
Bundle	To put individual units together to make a larger unit	

C

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Cent sign	¢	
Classify	Put things into groups (classes) based on a property	
Closed figure	A shape that begins and ends at the same point (example: a triangle)	
Circle	A round 2D shape. All points on the shape are the same distance from the center	
Coin	A round piece of metal with an official stamp, used as money	
Color words	Blue, green, yellow, red, purple, etc.	
Communicative property of addition	The sum of two or more numbers does not change if the order of the numbers is changed. $3 + 2 = 2 + 3$	
Column	To arrange objects vertically (up and down or top to bottom)	
Compare	To identify similarities or differences among numbers or objects	
Cone	A 3D shape that narrows from its flat base to a point at the top, the vertex	
Congruent	Equal in size and shape	
Corner	In 3D shapes, the point at which three line segments meet	

C

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Count	To say numbers in order, to assign a value to a group of items using one-to-one coorespondence	
Cube	A 3D shape with six congruent, square faces	
Cylinder	A 3D shape that is round and has a top and bottom that are congruent circles	

D

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Data	Information in numerical form that can be processed and analyzed	
Decompose	Separate a number into parts using other numbers; break apart	
Difference	The result of subtracting one number from another	
Digit	Any number from 0 to 9	
Digital clock	A clock that uses only numerals to show time	
Dime	A US coin that has the value of 10 cents	
Dimensions	The measurements of a shape (example: length, width, height)	
Distance	The amount of space between two objects, things, or people	
Dollar	The basic unit of money in the United States	
Dollar sign	\$	

E

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Edge	The intersection of two faces of a three-dimensional object	
Eighths	Each of eight equal parts into which a whole is divided into	
Estimate	To roughly determine the size	
Equal (to)	Same as in value or size	
Equal shares	Equal sizes, equal-sized parts	
Equation	A mathematical sentence in which one part is the same or equal to the other part (example: $3 + 5 = 8$)	
Even number	A number that can be evenly divided into two equal groups	
Expanded form	A way of writing numbers that shows place value $325 = (3 \times 100) + (2 \times 10) + (5 \times 1)$	

F

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Face	A plane surface of a three-dimensional object	
Fact family	A set of related math facts, such as $3 \times 5 = 15$, $5 \times 3 = 15$, $15 \div 3 = 5$, $15 \div 5 = 3$	
Fewer	Less than	
Figure	A closed two- or three-dimensional shape	
Fraction	A part of a whole number	

G

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Gap	Space, open between two measurements	
Geometry	A branch of mathematics that deals with shapes, sizes, angles, and dimensions of objects	
Greater than	More then. An inequality between numbers. The symbol used to represent greater than is an arrow pointing towards the smallest number. $5 > 3$	
Greatest to least	The arrangement of numbers from largest to smallest	

H

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Half or halves	One of two parts	
Half hour or half past	A period of time that equals 30 minutes; typically 30 minutes after the full hour (i.e. 6:30 is half past 6:00)	
Height	The vertical distance from the base of an object to its top	
Hexagon	A closed shape with 6 sides	
Horizontal	Describes a line or plane parallel to the earth's surface. Moving left/right	
Hour	A period of time that equals 60 minutes	
Hundred	A group or bundle of 10 tens or 100 ones	

I

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Identity property of addition	Any number plus 0 equals itself	
Identity property of subtraction	Any number minus 0 equals itself	

K

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Key or legend	Provides the meaning of the symbols used in a graph or map	
Kite	A four-sided figure that has two pair of sides that are equal in length	

L

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Least to greatest	The arrangement of numbers from smallest to largest	
Length	The distance from end to end. Units used to measure length include inches, feet, centimeters, meters, and yards	
Less than	An inequality between numbers. The symbol used to represent less than is an arrow pointing towards the smallest number $2 < 5$	
Line	A straight figure which has length but no width and is endless in both directions	
Line plot	A graph that shows frequency of data along a number line, usually plotted with an X	

M

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Measure	To find the size or amount of a particular attribute such as length, mass, time and money	
Measuring tools	Ruler, measuring tape, meter stick, yard stick, etc.	
Metric system	Measurement system used throughout the world that measures lengths in millimeters, centimeters, meters, and kilometers	
Minute	A period of time that equals 60 seconds	

N

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Nickel	A US coin that has the value of 5 cents.	
Non standard unit	A unit used to measure that is an informal object, such as paper clips, erasers, linking cubes, etc.	
Number	A count or measurement	
Number line	A visual representation of numbers on a straight line	

O

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Octagon	A closed shape with 8 sides	
Odd number	A number that when divided by two leaves a remainder of one	
Open number line	A number line with no numbers or markers	
Open shape	A shape made of lines and segments with at least one side not connected to anything at the end	
Order	To arrange in a particular sequence depending on a specific attribute	

P

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Parallelogram	A quadrilateral with opposite sides equal and parallel and the opposite angles are equal in size	
Part part whole model	A visual model that shows the relationship among numbers in addition and subtraction problems	
Partition	To equally divide into parts or shares	
Pattern	A set of numbers or objects that can be described by a specific rule	
Penny	A US coin with the value of 1 cent	
Pentagon	A five-sided, flat shape	
Pictograph/picture graph	A type of graph using pictures to represent data	
Place value	The value of a digit depending on its place in a number	
Predict	To make a reasonable guess	
Prism	A 3D shape with two congruent and parallel faces that are polygons. The rest of the faces are parallelograms	
Polygon	A many-sided shape	

Q

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Quadrilateral	A closed shape with 4 sides	
Quarter	One of four parts. Used with terms such as one-fourth, quarter of, fourth, etc.	
Quarter (money)	A US coin that has the value of 25 cents	
Quarter (time)	A period of time that equals 15 minutes; typically 15 minutes after a full hour or 15 minutes before the next full hour (i.e. 6:15 is a quarter past 6:00. 5:45 is a quarter til 6:00)	

R

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Rectangle	A four-sided shape made up of 2 pairs of parallel lines and four right angles	
Rectangular prism	A solid 3D object which has six faces that are rectangles	
Repeated addition	To add the same number over and over again	
Repeated subtraction	To subtract the same number over and over again	
Row	A horizontal arrangement of objects	

S

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Side	A line segment of a many-sided figure	
Sort	To group by a given attribute (i.e. shape, color, size, etc.)	
Sphere	A 3D figure made of all points equally distant from the center	
Square	A four-sided shape with all equal sides	
Standard form	A number written in digits. Ex 342	
Strategy	A plan to find an answer or solve a problem that makes sense	
Subtract	To take one quantity away from another or to find the difference between two numbers. Also know as separating	
Sum	The result when two numbers are added	

T

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Ten	A group or bundle of 10 ones	
Thousand	A group or bundle of 10 hundreds, 100 tens or 1,000 ones	
Thirds	One of three parts; Used with terms such as one-third or third of a circle	
Three-dimensional shape	A shape with three dimensions - length, width, and height	
Time	On going sequence of events that is measured by a clock	
Total	The result of when two or more numbers are added together	
Trapezoid	A four-sided shape that has a pair of opposite sides parallel	
Triangle	A three-sided shape	
Triangular prism	A 3D shape made up of three side faces and two base faces	
Two-dimensional shape	A flat shape with two dimensions	

U

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Unknown	The quantity you need to find in a math problem	

V

Concept	Definition	My Notes
Vertex	Point at which two line segments meet to form an angle	
Vertical	Going up/down or top/bottom	

W




Concept	Definition	My Notes
Word form	A number written in words. Ex. three hundred forty three	

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- ✓ Differentiated instruction for each student
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- ✓ Scaffolded learning to close gaps

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