



Vocabulary - Mathematics

► You have just read that the early computing machines could perform mathematical calculations. But how are *these calculations said in English*? Study the following material and do the activities that follow:

Symbol	What it is	How it is read	How it is used	Sample Expression
+	addition sign	plus / and / add	sum of numbers/values called addends	$3 + 5 = 8$
-	subtraction sign	minus / take away / subtract	difference of two numbers/values, i.e., the minuend & the subtrahend (= the number to be subtracted from the minuend)	$3 - 5 = -2$
-	minus sign	negative	negative number	-2
x	multiplication sign	times / by / (is) multiplied by	product of two numbers/values, i.e., the multiplicand & the multiplier	$3 \times 5 = 15$
÷	division sign	(is) divided by	quotient obtained by dividing a dividend by the divisor ; the number that is left over (if any) is the remainder	$3 \div 4 = 0.75$
±	plus/minus sign	plus or minus	to represent 2 values or 2 equations	$x = \pm 3$
√	radical sign; radix	the square root of	in radical expressions (the number inside the radical symbol is the radicand)	$\sqrt{4} = 2$
x^2	second power symbol	squared	to raise a number to its second power; in 8^2 , 8 is the base and 2 is the exponent (or power , or index , pl. indices)	$2^2 = 4$
x^3	third power symbol	to the third power / cubed	to raise (a number / value) to its cube	$2^3 = 8$
x^4	fourth power symbol	to the power of four	fourth power of a number	$3^4 = 81$
/	slash	divided by / over	division	$3/4 = 0.75$
%	percent symbol	percent	proportion	$0.032 = 3.2\%$
=	equality sign	equals / is equal to / is	indicates that 2 values are the same	$-(-5) = 5$
≠	inequality sign	is not equal to / does not equal	indicates that 2 values are different	$x \neq y$
<	inequality sign	is less than	indicates that the value on the left is smaller than the value on the right	$3 < 5$ $x < y$
>	inequality sign	is greater than / is more than	indicates that the value on the left is larger than the value on the right	$5 < 3$ $x < y$
°	degree symbol	degree(s)	angular measurement / temperature	$T = +20^\circ\text{C}$
-	dash / hyphen	from-to / between-and	indicates a range of numbers / breaks or joins words	$480\text{--}530\text{ nm}$

Expressions and equations:

$2xy + 5$ (an expression) / $t + 3 = 8$ (an equation) / $x = 100$ (a solution to the equation $x \div 2 - 40 = 10$)