Glossary of Mathematical Terms

GLOSSARY OF MATHEMATICAL TERMS

Average: A single number that gives a measure of central tendency of the numbers in a set. Usually, this is the mean. (It could also be the median or the mode.)

Base of a percent: The number for which the percent is found. For example, in the problem 10% of 50, the base is 50.

Base ten: A number system in which each digit has 10 times the value of the same digit one place to its right. For example, with 77 , the 7 to the left is worth 70, or 10 times the value of the 7 to the right.

Decimal (decimal number): A number written using base ten; a number containing a decimal point.

Decimal point: A dot separating the ones and the tenths places in a decimal number.

Denominator: The quantity below the line in a fraction. It tells the number of equal parts into which a whole is divided.

Difference: The amount that remains after one quantity is subtracted from another.

Digit: Any one of following ten symbols: {0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9}.

Equivalent: Two expressions that name the same number. For example, 4.6 and 4.60 are equivalent decimals; $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{4}{6}$ are equivalent fractions; and 2:6 and 1:3 are equivalent ratios.

Estimate: A number that is an approximation to an exact amount.

Fraction: A way of representing part of a whole or part of a group by telling the number of equal parts in the whole and the number of those parts that are being described. For example, in the fraction $\frac{4}{5}$, there are 5 parts in the whole and 4 of those parts are being described.

Improper fraction: A fraction whose denominator is an integer less than its integer numerator. For example, $\frac{6}{5}$ is an improper fraction.

Integer: The set of whole numbers and their opposites: {…, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, …}.

Mental math: Computing an exact answer without using pencil and paper or other physical aids.

Mixed decimal: A decimal number with an integer part and a decimal part.

Mixed fraction: A number with an integer part and a fraction part.

Multiple: A number that is the product of a whole number and any other whole number. For example, a multiple of 4 is 8.

Multiplication: The operation of repeated addition. For example, 4×3 is the same as $4 + 4 + 4$. Four is used as an addend three times in 4×3.

Numerator: The quantity above the line in a fraction. It tells how many parts are being counted.

Percent (%): a special ratio that compares a number to 100 using the symbol "%". For example, 40% of 100 is 40, and 40% of 200 is 80.

Percentiles: The numbers that divide a set of data into 100 equal parts.

Place value: The value of the position of a digit in a number. For example, in the number 7863, the 8 is in the hundreds place and its value is 800.

Product: The result of multiplication.

Proper fraction: A fraction whose numerator is an integer less than its integer denominator. For example, $\frac{4}{5}$ is a proper fraction.

Proportion: An equation showing that two ratios are equivalent. For example, $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$.

Rate: A ratio comparing two different units. For example, kilometres per hour and heartbeats per minute are rates.

Ratio: A comparison of two numbers using division.

Terminating decimal: A decimal that contains a finite number of digits. For example, 0.408 is a terminating decimal.

Terms of a fraction: The elements of a fraction. For example, in $\frac{3}{4}$, 3 and 4 are both terms.

Terms of a proportion: The elements of a proportion. For example, in 1:2 = 3:6, 1, 2, 3 and 6 are all terms.

Unit fraction: A fraction with a numerator of 1.

Unit rate: A rate with a denominator of 1.

Whole number: Any of the following numbers: {0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, …}.