

GRADE 10 ESSENTIAL UNIT E TRIGONOMETRY – CLASS NOTES

1. Triangles are everywhere! Almost every shape you see can be made of triangles. And every triangle can be made of two 'right' triangles. That is all we will study in this unit: 'right' triangles; triangles with a square corner.

2. Even more curious, a triangle has six parts, three sides and three angles. But if you know any three of those things you can figure out the other three.

3. A triangle is a polygon with three angles. ['*tri*' + '*angle*']. Consequently it has three sides as well.

You might recall all the different kinds of triangles. \rightarrow

4. Regardless of the types of triangles, the **most important triangle** is the **right triangle**. *Every* kind of triangle can be made of two right triangles and since every shape can be made of some triangles it is important to be rather familiar with a right triangle and all its magic.

THE 'RIGHT' (90 DEGREE) TRIANGLE

5. We will start to study the **right** triangle exclusively now. If you understand the right triangle you seriously understand every polygon shape in the universe. Every polygon can be made of triangles. Even circles can be made of triangles!

Pythagorean Theorem (The Law of Pythagoras)

This is very important! If there were 10 things you just had to know about math for the rest of your life this is one of them for sure.

6. **Experiment 1**. Take three different length slurpee straws or slips of paper and try to make a triangle of any kind with sides these or other different lengths. You might find there are some combinations of lengths that cannot make any triangle!

a. Try a **10**, a **4**, and a **3**. It doesn't work.

10 4 3

3 3 8

b. Try a **3**, a **3**, and a **8**. It doesn't work.

7. **Experiment 2**. Take three different length slurpee straws or slips of paper and try to make a right triangle! This will be very difficult. How can it be so difficult if there are right triangles everywhere??!!

Obviously there is some **secret** to making right-triangles.

8. **Pythagorean Theorem**. One of the more ancient and critical concepts of all. Many cultures had discovered 2500 years ago that "*given any right-triangle, the square on the longest side equals the sum of the squares on the other two sides*". The law has the Greek mathematician Pythagoras's name because he proved it and recorded it. But *ancient beadwork* in some North American indigenous cultures suggests they knew it too.

This is one of those math concepts you really do need to know for the rest of your life! Honestly!

It's a law!

9. Given **any** right-triangle, the square on the longest side equals the **sum** of the squares on the other two [shorter] sides.

In 'algebraic' form:

 $c^2 = a^2 + b^2$; ****where *c* is the longest side**** *c* is *alone by itself* in the equation!!!!!!! ****

The longest side is called the *hypotenuse* and is **always** *across* from the **right angle**.

10. You most definitely need to add this idea to your two-page cheat sheet [reference notes]

Pythagoras Examples: *You try*!

11. Given the two right-angle triangles below; YOU find length *x*. (The triangles are **not** '*drawn to scale*', so you can't just measure them with a ruler!)

Ans: 13 exactly Ans: ab*out* **13.27** if you round to two decimal places.

WORKED EXAMPLE – PYTHAGORAS

12. The more difficult problem is to find a short side when you are given the other short side and the hypotenuse.

Write down the formula (*you only have one!*)

 $c^2 = a^2 + b^2$; now plug in the numbers in the correct place; (*'c' is the hypotenuse; alone; by itself!*)

 $9^2 = 6^2 + b^2$ evaluate the squared numbers

So
$$
81 = 36 + b^2
$$
; get the b² by itself

81 – 36 = b² ; evaluate (subtract)

45 = b² ; now calculate the '**b**' by 'unsquaring'

6.7082… = b

 $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{6.71}$ rounded to nearest hundredth

If you don't like all the fancy steps to the left (algebra) just sketch the picture \downarrow

Square and Square Roots of Numbers

15. If you are not overly familiar with the idea of squares and square roots from previous studies try this quick lesson; complete the table here:

16. Evaluate the following squares and square roots (to nearest hundredth)

Labelling Triangles (*special way***)**

17. As usual CORNERS are labelled with CAPITAL LETTERS and sides are labelled with small letters.

18. But triangles have **special labelling**; the small letter across from a corner is the same as the CAPITAL letter at the corner across.

So, side 'a' can also be called side **BC** Some folks label the sides and some the corners that make the sides!

19. We label triangles that way because of the three bears! You know: papa bear, momma bear, baby bear. What??

20. You may have casually noticed in your experience the 'Papa bear, Momma bear, Baby bear' rule (that is *my* name for it!)

My 'Papa bear, Momma bear, Baby bear' rule just says that the biggest angle (the 90° papa bear in a right triangle) has the biggest side **across** from it (the hypotenuse) , the **baby bear angle** has the smallest side **across** from it, and the **momma bear** has the middle-sized side **across** from it.

21. Go ahead, sketch out some triangles see if I am wrong. See if you can find a 'counterexample' that shows I am wrong. And it works for any triangle, even if it is not a right triangle. This is a pretty clear **relationship** between the corner angles of a triangle and the corresponding side across from that corner angle!

(*btw: if you are not doodling on scrap paper when studying math then you definitely are not thinking or interacting with your thoughts*)

Triangles are getting more magic all the time. There is more!

'Un-natural' Numbers (Irrational Numbers)

22. Often when doing a square root you will end up with a crazy number on your calculator like:

 $\sqrt{5}$ = 2.236067977. It actually turns out to be closer to this really \rightarrow :

2.2360679774997896964091736687313……………; *(it goes forever with no pattern)*

but your calculator display is too small to show an infinite string of numbers!

23. So normally you would just properly round the answer to 2 or 3 decimal places as directed in an assignment.

10

So now you know how to find a missing side when you know the other two sides of a rightangled triangle using the Pythagorean Theorem.

SIMILAR TRIANGLES

24. There is another way to find missing sides of a triangle if you know one side and you know that it is similar to another triangle with some known sides.

Similar Triangles

25. Triangles (or any shape) are called '*similar*' if they have the same shape. The three triangles in the diagram to the right are similar triangles. They have the same shape (the same corner angles) and corresponding sides are *proportional* in length.

26. Further, if you know at least three parts of a triangle including at least one side then you know the shape **and the size** of that triangle.

'*Corresponding*' sides of similar triangles are marked with similar number of 'tick' marks. Corresponding corners have the same letters here.

Similar Triangles Calculation

27. Triangles **ABC** and **PZC** are '*similar'*. They have the same corner angles at **C**. They both have a **90º corner** and therefore the left-over angles at **A** and **P** are the same. Three angles the same makes them similar. Consequently the *corresponding sides* of the triangles are *proportional*.

$$
\frac{\overline{AB}}{\overline{PZ}}=2;\quad \frac{\overline{AC}}{\overline{CP}}=2;\quad \frac{\overline{BC}}{\overline{CZ}}=2
$$

So side \overline{AC} must be 20 and side \overline{BC} must be 12.

Triangles ABC and **PZC** are '*similar'* can be written as '**ABC ~ PZC'** in mathematical notation.

28. **You try a few:**

a. Determine all the missing line segments in this figure.

(notice that we sometimes use B and B' to mark corresponding [matching] corners. B' is pronounced "B prime")

This could be rafters in a house or girders in a bridge!

b. Find Length \overline{PQ} and Length \overline{AP} of **Our Solution:** these similar triangles.

ABC and APQ are similar (ie: ABC ~ APQ) since they have all three of the same angles.

INDIRECT MEASUREMENT USING SIMILAR TRIANGLES

29. Using similar triangles is critical to performing **indirect measurement**.

How tall is a certain flag pole? Do you climb it with a tape measure and measure it *directly*? Do you chop it down and measure it directly?

Let us calculate the height of a flag pole *indirectly* without having to climb it.

How high is the flag pole?

30. You have been paid \$1300 to repair a flag pole. You need to measure its height, *x*.

You stick a stick in the ground (vertically) and measure its length and the length of its shadow. That makes a similar triangle to the flagpole and its shadow.

 \therefore the flag pole has a height of:

measure the shadows the same time of day!

^{31.} Curious thought! What could you do if it wasn't a sunny day?

ANGLES AND USING A PROTRACTOR

32. A triangle has six parts; it has three sides and it has three corner angles. We have not paid much attention to the corners and angles yet.

It works out that if you know three parts of a triangle you know all the other parts too!

We have been measuring and comparing the lengths of sides of a triangle but how do you name angles and then measure angles at the corners.

Naming Angles

33. An angle is named by the two *rays* that form it.

Ray \overline{AB} and ray \overline{AC} share the same end point at point **A** and make **angle BAC**; we write it in simpler symbols as: \angle **BAC**.

The '**vertex**' or corner where the rays meet is common to both rays so it is the **central letter** in the name of the angle.

35. You *could* call this angle **CAB** as well, but then you have ambiguity (confusion) since there are two different names for the same thing. Consequently, we tend to ensure that we put the **B** and **C** in alphabetic order to avoid confusion. It is more properly called \angle **BAC.**

USING A PROTRACTOR

Using a protractor

40. Put the cross hair of the protractor on the vertex of the angle with one of the lines along the baseline of the protractor. Count, **starting from zero**, the number of degrees on the appropriate inner or outer ring

The '*measure*' of **angle ABD = 140**°.

We also say: $m \angle ABD = 140^\circ$.

41. Name the following angles and measure them to the nearest **whole** degree: *(be aware that your answer may differ from your classmate's by one or two tick marks depending on how good you are at lining up the protractor and what eye you squint through, etc.)*

 $\sqrt{7}$

42. Measure and record below the indicated angles in units of degrees:

TRIGONOMETRIC RATIOS OF RIGHT-ANGLE TRIANGLES

43. You know the exact shape of any right-angle triangle as soon as you are told one of its *trigonometric ratios*. So for example, if your Aunt says she wants you to build her a ramp up to her house with a '*tangent of 0.5*' she wants you to build a ramp that **rises** half a foot for every foot it **runs** along the ground. This works out to be pretty much **26.56º.**

44. Whether you measure the ramp's bottom corner angle by a **rise** per run of 3 $\frac{3}{6}$ or $\frac{1/2}{1}$ $\frac{2}{1}$ or $\frac{6}{12}$ $\frac{0}{12}$ it would still be the same triangle **shape**, the same **angle**, the same **slope**.

45. Or maybe your Aunt changes her mind, (*it is the well-deserved prerogative of all women to change their mind*) she says she wants a ramp that rises *two feet for every four feet* she rolls *along* the slope of the ramp instead!

46. So you could buy a 4 foot board and slant it 2 feet above the ground, **or** a **2** foot board and slant it **1** foot above the ground, **or** maybe an **8** foot board and slant it **4** feet above the ground.

How about a six foot board? How many feet above the ground is its height? :____________.

47. They all make the same angle with the ground! It works out that the measure of the bottom left corner, ie: the angle with the ground, is **exactly 30**.

All these similar *triangles* have exactly the same corresponding angles.

It works out if you measure it that *every* right-triangle that rises one foot up for every two feet along its *hypotenuse* that the corner opposite is exactly a measure of 30 degrees (**30**). Theother one is therefore **60.**

DEFINITION OF TRIGONOMETRIC RATIOS OF A TRIANGLE

48. Look at a right triangle. There is one to the right.

Recall my Momma Bear and Baby Bear rule. What happens to the measure of corner **A** if we make side **a** smaller but leave the hypotenuse the same?

What happens to the measure of corner **A** if we make side **a** bigger and leave the hypotenuse the same?

Explore this *yourself* some more changing **side c** to see how corner A changes.

49. You can measure the '*pointiness*' of an angle ' θ ' of a right-angle triangle by three different measures:

Tangent of $\theta = \frac{opposite length}{softmax$ ad jacent length

50. We tend to use Greek letters like '*Theta*', θ, to represent angles.

Sine of $\theta = \frac{opposite length}{h颜 + 1}$ hypotenuse length

opposite adjacent hypotenuse $\boldsymbol{\theta}$

MNEMONIC TO REMEMBER THE TRIGONOMETRIC RATIOS

51. A Mnemonic is a sentence or series of letters that helps you remember something.

SOH CAH TOA. Chant it to yourself 10 times now!

'SOH' reminds you that **S**ine is **O**pp / **H**yp **'CAH'** reminds you that **C**osine is **A**dj / **H**yp **'TOA'** reminds you that **T**angent is **O**pp / **A**dj

Write it at the top of every page of every trigonometry question! **Seriously!** If it not there I will not help you! It is a formula!

Think and scribble! A trig ratio is really just a way to compare any triangle with another similar triangle having one of the sides equal to one.

PRACTICE: TRIGONOMETRIC RATIO – SECTION REVIEW

52. Find the sine, cosine, and tangent ratios of the triangles below (express as exact values and as a decimals to three places). (*Caution: The triangles are not drawn to scale*).

TRIGONOMETRY TABLES

53. In the *old days* (early *70's*) we had *no* calculators, certainly none that did trigonometry. If you wanted a value of a *trigonometric ratio* for any given angle of a right

Trigonometric Ratios Table Rounded to three decimal places

A more full table of values is included at the end of these notes as an Appendix.

54. Make sure you know how to find the **Sin**, **Cos**, and **Tan** ratios of any angle on your calculator to get the above results. Be careful to ensure your calculator is operating in 'degree' mode. Make sure you know how to do it on a variety of calculators too; some calculators you press the **sin** , **cos** , **tan** button after the angle, some you press it before!

55. Complete this table for selected sine, cosine and tangent functions below using a calculator: (make sure it makes sense by estimating from the table). Usually, we like to be a bit more accurate with trig ratios so go to the nearest thousandths, 0.001, rounding.

56. **Angular Mode on a calculator**. Be careful when working with angles on a calculator or any computer application. Angles can be measured in several units, *not just degrees*. For now you only know degrees [**º**] so make sure your calculator shows a little '**DEG**' in the display when using trigonometry formulas. Note if you are in EXCEL that EXCEL does not understand degrees. See me if you want to know how to make EXCEL work for angles.

INVERSE TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTION

60. The three trigonometric functions studied so far *give a numerical value* for *any given angle* measure. The value that they give is the ratio of two sides of a right-angle triangle. For example, every right-angle triangle that has a corner whose sine is **0.5** has an opposite side that is half as long as its hypotenuse and it is a 30° corner. Notice the final corner must be **60**.

61. Every angle has a ratio of a sine, a cosine, and a tangent function that goes with it, as evident from the tables.

But, *what if you are told the ratio* (the numerical value) and want to find the angle [^o] that goes with it? That is called performing an '*inverse trigonometric function'*. All you do is look up '*backwards*' in the tables. You are *undoing* the 'trig function'.

Rounded to three places. So naturally a more accurate calculator will give slightly more accurate answers.

Trig values are generally irrational, they cannot be represented exactly by a decimal. *Consequently, inverse trig functions will seldom find the exact angle.*

To use a table backwards, or to '*undo*' an operation or function, is called an '**inverse function**'.

The '*inverse cosine*' of the ratio **0.940** is very near **20**.

The '*inverse tangent*' of **2.747** is very near **70**.

Inverse trig functions are written like this: **sin-1 (x)**, **cos-1 (x)**, **tan-1 (x)**.

Inverse trig functions take a **number** and **find the angle** that made that number (ratio).

The inverse trig functions are also *sometimes called* 'arc-sine', 'arc-cosine', and 'arc-tangent' or simply '**arcsin**', '**arccos**', and '**arctan**'.

INVERSE TRIG FUNCTIONS ON YOUR CALCULATOR.

62. Complete the table below using *your* calculator. Check that it is sensible from the table. Round to the nearest 0.1 degree. Try them on a different calculator too so you learn to use a variety of calculators.

63. Notice that all you really need to find all the parts of a right-triangle are three parts (one of which must be a side) then you can figure out all the rest for the exact size and shape of the triangle! So being given two sides of a triangle and there being told it has a 90º corner you can figure out the entire triangle.

TRIGONOMETRIC RATIOS AS CENTRAL ANGLES ON THE ARC OF A CIRCLE

64. If you did not like studying triangles, maybe this sector of a circle will help! Get your teacher to explain this. This is actually much easier to understand and to estimate the trigonometric ratios. It turns out that the **sine** of an angle is just how **high** up you are on the circle (or a ferris wheel), the **cosine** is just how far to the **right** you are on the circle, and the tangent is just how high up you are if you extended out the very right edge of the diagram! omg.

CONCLUSION

65. Congratulations for completing this Grade 10 Essential Trigonometry. 40% of it should have been review from previous studies. So, it should have been a good refresher.

In Grade 11 you will learn how to handle triangles that are not right-angle.

MARS

APPENDIX A - GLOSSARY

NUPS

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NUPS

APPENDIX B: EXTRA NOTES AND EXAMPLES

LABELING A TRIANGLE

1. You may find that many text books and other study units label individual triangles like this:

2. We always name the corners with CAPITAL LETTERS, and the sides opposite those respective corner angles with the *same but small* 'lower case' letters.

3. So in the case of this type of labelling you could say that:

 $sin(B) = \frac{Opp}{H}$ $\frac{Opp}{Hyp}=\frac{b}{a}$ $\frac{b}{a}$ sin(C) = $\frac{Opp}{Hyp}$ $\frac{Opp}{Hyp}=\frac{c}{a}$ \boldsymbol{a} $cos(B) = \frac{Adj}{H}$ $\frac{Adj}{Hyp} = \frac{c}{a}$ $\frac{c}{a}$ $cos(C) = \frac{Adj}{Hyp}$ $\frac{Adj}{Hyp} = \frac{b}{a}$ \boldsymbol{a} $tan(B) = \frac{Opp}{At}$ $\frac{Opp}{Adj}=\frac{b}{c}$ $\frac{b}{c}$ tan(C) = $\frac{Opp}{Adj}$ $\frac{Opp}{Adj} = \frac{c}{b}$ \bm{b}

you might see some interesting patterns when it is presented that way!

THE GREEK LETTERS *(you will not be tested on this, enquiring minds only)*

4. Often we use Greek letters to show the measure of an angle. It just makes formulas a little easier to follow if Greek letters are used for angles, and English (ie: Latin) letters for lengths.

5. Below is a table of Greek letters. Of course they have 'lower case' and 'upper case' versions just like us. The Greek letters we tend to use most often though to measure angles are: θ , α , and β or **'Theta', 'Alpha'**, and **'Beta'**.

6. In **Grade 10** math you will generally use only θ , α , β , and of course

 π . Later in your math studies you will use σ and Σ for statistics.

If you are starting any high school science classes you might see: ' Δ ' for '*change*' in motion, ' Ω ' for resistance in electricity, ' ρ ' for density of a fluid, ' λ ' for wavelength of sound waves or light waves, and perhaps ' ω ' for rotation rate in physics.

You will get to use the remainder if you go to university!

PRACTICE PROBLEMS

1. In addition to all your assignments you may want to have a good set of notes with these basic problems that you solve here.

2. Calculate the sin, cos, tan, and the value of the angle in degrees of the following indicated angles of the given *right-angle* triangles.

a. Calculate sin, cos, and tan, to the nearest three decimal places. (Two decimal places is not sufficiently accurate for finding angles that are close to zero or one)

b. Calculate angles to the nearest 0.1 degrees

c.

Hint: You will need Pythagoras to help answer completely

WORD PROBLEMS INVOLVING TRIGONOMETRY

3. Remember, if you know any three parts of a triangle you can solve all the other three parts of the triangle! (*well …. except for one type of case*)

Make sure your calculator is in degree mode! Degrees is the ways earth people measure angles. There is a much better unit you will learn if you take calculus some day.

4. **Example find a side**: Carol and her son are flying a kite. The kite makes an angle of 60° to the ground, the string is 50 metres long. What is the height, *h*, (*ie*: altitude) of the kite above the ground?

We have three things given (two angles and a length of a side) so we can find all the rest.

 $sin(60) = \frac{h}{\pi}$ $\frac{h}{50}$; $\therefore 0.866 = \frac{h}{50}$ $\frac{n}{50}$; mult bs by 50 ∴ $50 * 0.866 = h$ So **h** = **43.30** m.

You Try:

5. Gabriel is leaning a 20 foot ladder against a wall. The ladder says on it should not be more than a 70° angle with the ground for safety reasons. How high up the wall, height '*h*', will the ladder reach?

You try: *Make sure your calculator is in degree mode!*

6. Florence wants to calculate the height of a building. She stands 100 metres away from the base of the building and measures a 35° 'angle of elevation' to the top of the building. What is the height of the building**? Hint:** *Use the tan function.*

Example find an angle.

7. Your Aunt wants to make a ramp up to her doorstep. The step is **4 ft** above the ground. The board she gives you is **8 feet** long. *What angle* will the ramp make with the ground?

a. We want the bottom left corner angle. We are given that it is a right angle, the opposite

side to the angle is 4 and the hypotenuse is 8. Easy!

$$
\sin \theta = \frac{Opp}{Hyp} = \frac{4}{8} = 0.5
$$

b. Now find what angle has a sine of **0.5**! Use the tables or better yet the sin⁻¹ button on the calculator.

 $\theta = \sin^{-1}(0.5) = 30^{\circ}$ so, angle $\theta = 30^{\circ}$

Make sure your calculator is in degree mode!

You Try

8. A police helicopter is over a certain building in the city. The crew is told to go five km north and two km east. What angle from north must it fly? (*Hint: inverse tan, ie: tan-1*)

If you like this sort of question we do lots in the Grade 12 Applied Vectors Unit and in Physics.

