Algebra

AQA · GCSE · Mathematics · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
identity /aɪ'dentɪti/	$2(x + 1) = 2x + 2$ is an **identity**: it is true for every x. $2(x + 1) = 2x + 2$ x
algebraic fraction /ˌældʒɪ'breɪɪk 'frækʃn/	An **algebraic fraction** has an expression in its numerator or denominator.
composite function /'kɒmpəzɪt 'fʌŋkʃn/	A **composite function** fg(x) means f(g(x)): apply g first. fg(x) f(g(x)) g
inverse function /ɪn'vɜːs 'fʌŋkʃn/	The **inverse function** undoes the original function.
gradient /'greɪdɪənt/	An electrostatic field points opposite to the potential **gradient**.
perpendicular lines /ˌpɜːpən'dɪkjʊlə laɪnz/	**Perpendicular lines** meet at a right angle.
completing the square /kəm'pliːtɪŋ ðə skweə/	**Completing the square** turns $x^2 + 6x$ into $(x + 3)^2 - 9$. $x^2 + 6x$ $(x + 3)^2 - 9$
reciprocal /rɪ'sɪprəkl/	The **reciprocal** of 4 is $1/4$. 4 $1/4$
root /ruːt/	The number 3 is a **root** of $x^2 = 9$. 3 $x^2 = 9$
discriminant /dɪ'skrɪmɪnənt/	A positive **discriminant** gives two distinct real roots.
elimination /ɪˌlɪmɪ'neɪʃn/	Use **elimination** to remove one unknown from two equations.
iteration /ˌɪtə'reɪʃn/	A loop is a kind of **iteration**.

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{ } **set notation** /set nəʊˈteɪʃn/	**Set notation** describes which values belong to a group.
nth term /ˌenˌtiːˈeɪtʃ tɜːm/	The **nth term** gives a sequence value from its position.
+ **arithmetic progression** /əˈrɪθmətɪk prəˈgreʃn/	An **arithmetic progression** adds the same amount at each step.
× **geometric progression** /ˌdʒiːəʊˈmetrɪk prəˈgreʃn/	A **geometric progression** multiplies by the same factor each step.

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