Algebra

AQA · GCSE · Mathematics · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
= **identity** /aɪˈdentɪti/	$2(x + 1) = 2x + 2$ is an **identity**: it is true for every x. $2(x + 1) = 2x + 2$ x
÷ **algebraic fraction** /ˌældʒɪˈbreɪɪk ˈfrækʃn/	An **algebraic fraction** has an expression in its numerator or denominator.
composite function /ˈkɒmpəzɪt ˈfʌŋkʃn/	A **composite function** fg(x) means f(g(x)): apply g first. fg(x) f(g(x)) g
inverse function /ɪnˈvɜːs ˈfʌŋkʃn/	The **inverse function** undoes the original function.
gradient /ˈgreɪdɪənt/	An electrostatic field points opposite to the potential **gradient**.
+ **perpendicular lines** /ˌpɜːpənˈdɪkjʊlə laɪnz/	**Perpendicular lines** meet at a right angle.
completing the square /kəmˈpliːtɪŋ ðə skweə/	**Completing the square** turns $x^2 + 6x$ into $(x + 3)^2 - 9$. $x^2 + 6x$ $(x + 3)^2 - 9$
reciprocal /rɪˈsɪprəkl/	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 /dɪˈskrɪmɪnənt/	A positive **discriminant** gives two distinct real roots.
− **elimination** /ɪˌlɪmɪˈneɪʃn/	Use **elimination** to remove one unknown from two equations.
iteration /ˌɪtəˈreɪʃn/	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.