Understanding Maths glossary

12-hour clock	uses a.m. and p.m. to show if it is morning or afternoon
24-hour clock	uses numbers from 0 to 24 to stand for all hours in the day
2-D shape	a flat shape with two dimensions – length and width
3-D shape	a shape with thickness and three dimensions – length, width and depth
acute angle	an angle of less than 90°
addition	finding the total of two or more numbers – use a plus sign (**+**) when **adding** numbers together
adjacent	next to each other
algebra	a part of maths where letters are used to represent numbers; it can be used to explain some of the number patterns you find
altogether	another word often used to mean **add**
approximation	a close **estimate**
arc	part of the **circumference** of a circle is called an **arc**
area	the amount of surface that a shape covers – it is measured in square units, such as square centimetres (**cm^2**) or square metres (**m^2**)
average	used to give an idea of a whole set of numbers – the **mean**, **median**, and **mode** are types of **average**
axes	the horizontal and vertical lines on a graph
brackets	when there are **brackets** in the calculation always do that part first – even if it is an **addition** or **subtraction** – then follow the **order of operations**
calculate	work something out
capacity	the amount a container can hold when it is full – often measured in **litres** (**l**), **millilitres** (**ml**), **pints** and **gallons**
century	a period of 100 years
circle	a **circle** has one curved side and a 360° angle
circumference	the **circumference** is the distance around the **circle**
consecutive	things that follow one after another; for example, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are **consecutive numbers**
co-ordinates	allow you to pinpoint exactly where a point or shape is on a graph or map
cube numbers	the result of **multiplying** three of the same number together (3^3 means $3 \times 3 \times 3$)
decimal	a part number less than one
decimal places	the number of digits after the **decimal point**
decimal point	separates whole numbers from part numbers
denominator	the bottom number in a **fraction**, which tells you how many parts the whole has been split into
descending	going down or getting smaller
diameter	the widest distance across the **circle** and through the centre
division	what happens when you share things equally or **divide** things into equal groups
double	when you **double** something you make it twice as big
dozen	another word meaning 12

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equation	a number sentence
equilateral triangle	a **triangle** with three equal sides and three equal angles
equivalent fractions	**fractions** with the same value even though each has a different **numerator** and **denominator**
estimate	a sensible guess
even numbers	whole numbers that can be **divided** by two
face	one of the flat or curved surfaces of a **3-D shape**
factors	whole numbers that **divide** exactly into another number without a remainder
fraction	a part of something
frequency	the number of times an event happens
halve	another way of saying **divide** into two
hexagon	a **2-D shape** with six sides
imperial units	before **metric units** we used **imperial units** such as feet, yards, miles, stones and gallons
inclusive	including all the things mentioned
increase	another word meaning **add**
isosceles triangle	a **triangle** with two equal sides and two equal angles
kite	a **quadrilateral** with two short sides **adjacent** and of equal length and two longer sides adjacent and of equal length
mean	a type of **average**: to find the **mean**, add all the values and then divide the total by how many numbers there are
median	a type of **average**: to find the **median**, put all the values in order and then find the middle value
metric units	measures such as kilometre and metre; centimetre and millimetre; gram and kilogram; litre and millilitre
mode	a type of **average**: to find the **mode**, look for the most frequent value in the list
more	another word meaning **add**
multiple	the **multiple** of a number can be **divided** exactly by that number; 4, 6, and 8 are all multiples of 2
multiplication	a quick way of **adding** lots of the same number – use a **multiplication sign** (**×**) when multiplying numbers together
negative number	a number less than zero
numerator	the top number in a **fraction**, which tells us how many parts there are of something
obtuse angle	an angle that is greater than 90° but less than 180°
octagon	a **2-D shape** with eight sides
odd number	whole numbers that cannot be **divided** exactly by two
order of operations	if there are no **brackets**, always do multiplications and divisions first, followed by additions and subtractions
parallel	lines that are the same distance apart along their whole length
pentagon	a **2-D shape** with five sides

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per cent	out of every hundred
percentage	a fraction with a **denominator** of 100 – use the sign (**%**) when writing **percentages**
perimeter	the distance all the way round the edge of something
perpendicular	lines that are at right angles (90°) to each other
plus	another word meaning **add**
prime number	a number that **divides** by itself and one only
probability	the chance of something happening
proportion	the relationship between part of something and the whole thing
prism	a **3-D shape** with two ends that are the same size and shape as one another
quadrant	one quarter of a square or **circle**
quadrilateral	a **2-D shape** with four straight sides and internal angles that add up to 360°
radius	the length of a straight line drawn from the centre of the **circle** to its curved edge – it is half the length of the **diameter**
range	the difference between the lowest and highest numbers: to find the **range**, find the highest number and subtract the lowest number from it
ratio	a way of comparing information – if you have 3 blue sweets and 4 red sweets you can say that the **ratio** of blue sweets to red sweets is 3 to 4 (or 3 : 4)
reflective symmetry	when a shape can be reflected in one or more mirror lines
reflex angle	an angle that is greater than 180° but less than 360°
rhombus	a **2-D shape** with four equal sides – its opposite sides are parallel
Roman numerals	numbers written using the letters **I**, **V**, **X**, **L**, **C**
scalene triangle	a **triangle** with no equal sides and no equal angles
semicircle	half a **circle**
sequence	numbers arranged in a special order
share	another word meaning **divide**
square numbers	the answer when a number has been **multiplied** by itself ($2^2 = 4$)
square root	(**√**) the number that has been **multiplied** by itself to give a **square number**
subtraction	taking away one number from another
sum	another word meaning **add**
surface area	the **area** of all the faces of a **3-D shape** added together
symmetry	two halves of a shape or pattern that match exactly
take	another word meaning **subtract**
total	another word meaning **add**
trapezium	a **quadrilateral** with one set of **parallel** lines
triangle	a **2-D shape** with three straight sides and three angles that always add up to 180°
vertices (vertex)	another word for corners in a **2-D shape**
volume	the amount of space that something takes up – often measured in **cm^3**
***x*-axis**	the horizontal line on a graph
***y*-axis**	the vertical line on a graph