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Grade Level/Subject: Combined Geometry (HS)

Topic: Mastering Math Vocabulary


Introduction: This cannot be a one lesson, but a year long process, every year of the students math career.

Instructional process: Several times throughout each chapter new vocabulary words are placed on the board. Instead of the normal warm-up problems, on those days students are to write and define the vocabulary in their own words. They have been informed that these words will be used in their lessons and tests and that they will be expected to understand them without asking for clarification. As the lesson is taught that day and throughout the chapter, I make a point of using those words often and referring students to them or the vocabulary section of their notebooks whenever they question anything that the definition of the word would help them understand. For example, when asked to name the "sides of an angle A", the definition that tells them "an angle is a figure formed by two rays that have the same endpoint" should let them know that they are to name two rays that start at the same endpoint "A".

Closure: This occurs naturally as the lesson begins and the words begin to be used in the teaching.

Assessment: The notebook is checked periodically (at least once per chapter) and a grade is given for having all the vocabulary up to date. Also they are sometimes allowed to use the notebook during their tests and always during homework to assist them.

Modifications/Accommodations: Since this is an honors class, little modification is needed. I do allow a more direct copy of the definitions from students who are ESL than those who are not. Sometimes with lower math classes, such as my Pre-Algebra, the vocabulary may begin as a word search and then ask them to define the words they have found using as short a definition as they can. This seems to help them put it in their own words.

Reflection: I am stressing vocabulary in a much more deliberate way than I have in past years even though it has been an area of concentration in all subjects at Guymon High School for a few years now. I am not having the questions of past years dealing with the wording of questions as much as before and this will hopefully translate to better understanding in any of the standardized tests (EOI, ACT, PSAT, SAT) they take as well.
100 WORDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL COMBINED GEOMETRY CLASS
(listed in alphabetical order)

1. acute angle                          2. adjacent angles                      3. alternate interior angles
4. altitude                                5. angle of depression                6. angle of elevation
7. apothem                              8. auxiliary line                          9. base of figure (2 or 3-D)
10. biconditional                     11. bisector                                12. central angle
13. chord                                 14. circumscribed                      15. collinear
16. complementary angles 17. concentric circles 18. conditional
19. congruent figures                   20. converse                               21. corollary
22. corresponding angles        23. cosine (cos)                          24. counterexample
25. deductive reasoning 26. diagonal 27. diameter
28. dilation 29. equiangular triangle 30. equilateral triangle
31. exterior angle                     32. function                                33. geometric mean
34. hypotenuse                         35. hypothesis                            36. indirect proof
38. inscribed 39. intersection 40. inverse of a conditional
41. isosceles triangle 42. kite 43. lateral
46. locus                                47. median of a triangle            48. midpoint
49. minor and major arcs          50. n-gon                                   51. obtuse angle
52. obtuse triangle                    53. octagon                                54. opposite rays
55. origin                                  56. parallel lines                         57. pentagon
58. perimeter of a polygon          59. perpendicular bisector          60. perpendicular lines
61. point symmetry                   62. polygon                                63. postulate (axiom)
64. prism 65. pyramid                   66. quadrilateral
67. radius 68. ray                          69. rectangular solid
70. reflection                      71. regular polygon               72. remote interior angle
73. rhombus                              74. right angle
76. rotational symmetry              77. same-side interior angles
79. scalene triangle                  80. secant of a circle          81. sector of a circle
82. similar polygons                 83. sine (sin)                                84. skew lines
85. slant height                           86. space                                      87. sphere
88. straight angle                   89. supplementary angles
91. tangent (tan)                     92. theorem
94. translation 95. transversal
97. triangle 98. Venn diagram
100. vertical angles