



Reception: Mathematical Vocabulary

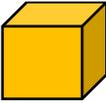


Reception	Definition	Example
Above	Used to describe a higher position than another object.	The Maths Meetings board is above the sink.
Add	Carry out the process of addition.	I can add two numbers together to find a total.
Addition	The operation to combine at least two numbers or quantities to form a further number or quantity, the sum or total. Addition is the inverse operation to subtraction.	Three plus seven is equal to ten. This is an addition equation.
Altogether	In total.	That will be £2 altogether please.
Balance	A measuring tool used to weigh objects. It has two dishes hanging on a bar. Both dishes will be level when the contents weigh the same. Also, as a verb, indicates equivalence and equality.	The objects in the balance are unequal in weight because the dish on the right side is lower down than the dish on the left side. The two objects balance which means they have the same mass.
Before	In front of or prior to.	The number '3' comes before '5' on the number line.
Below	Used to describe a lower position than another object.	The sink is below the Maths Meetings board.
Between	Indicates a position in relation to two other places or objects on either side.	The teacher is standing between two tables.
Capacity	The amount of liquid a container can hold.	This cup is full to capacity because it cannot hold any more water.
Circle	The name of a 2-D shape. A circle has a curved side.	
Clock	A tool used to measure time.	The clock shows us that the time is now 2 o'clock.
Compare	Look for similarities and/or differences between at least two objects or sets.	I can compare these two sets – this set has more.
Corner	A point where two or more lines meet. The correct mathematical term is vertex (vertices).	The table has four corners (vertices).
Cost	A monetary value assigned to a good or service.	This apple costs 10p. What coin could I use to pay for it?
Count	Assigning one number name to each of a set of objects to determine how many there are.	I counted the children in the group – there are four so we will need four pencils.



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Cube	A 3-D shape with six identical square faces.	
Cuboid	A 3-D shape with six rectangular faces.	
Curved surface	A non-plane surface of a 3-D shape. Both cones and cylinders have curved surfaces.	The cone has a curved surface.
Cylinder	A 3-D shape with two circular faces joined by a curved surface.	
2-D	Abbreviation for two-dimensional. A figure is two-dimensional if it lies on a plane.	A square is a 2-D shape.
3-D	Abbreviation for three dimensional. A solid is three dimensional and occupies space.	A cylinder is a 3-D shape.
Describe	To express mathematical features, qualities and details in words.	Can you describe the properties of a cube?
Direction	The orientation of a line in space.	Which direction should we jump – forwards or backwards?
Distance	A measure between two points or things.	The distance between my house and the school is longer than that between the school and the train station.
Double	To multiply by two or add a value to itself.	Ten is double five.
Edge	A line segment joining two vertices of a plane figure (2-D shape) and the intersection of two plane faces (in a 3-D shape).	A triangle has three edges and a cube has 12 edges .
Empty	Containing nothing. Most commonly used in the context of measures.	There is no more water left in the jug – it is empty .
Equal	Indicates equivalence between two values and can be expressed with the symbol '='. The symbol is read as 'is equal to' which means the same as. Expressions on either side of the symbol have the same value.	My sets are equal because there are four bears in this set and there are four bears in this set.



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Face	One of the plane surfaces of a solid shape.	A cube has six faces .
Fewer	A lesser amount – used when counting discrete objects, i.e. countable objects such as, pens, teddies, counters, etc.	There are fewer buttons on my coat than yours.
First	Comes before all others in time or position.	First I brush my teeth. Then I go to bed.
Flat	A level surface.	The table has a flat rectangular surface.
Full	Contains/holds as much or as many as possible; has no empty space.	The juice carton is not full because I drank some.
Group	To make equal size groups. This is one model for division.	I will group the crayons equally so that each person gets two.
Half	One of two equal parts of a shape, quantity or object.	I have shared the dolls into two equal groups – I have half and you have half .
Last	Comes after all others in time or order.	Rory is the last person in the line.
Length	A linear measurement.	The length of my snake is shorter than yours.
Less	A smaller amount or not as much.	I have 15p and you have 7p. you have less money than me.
Line	A set of adjacent points that has length but no width.	I have drawn a line matching the number four with the four ducks.
Long	An adjective used to describe length.	I have a long piece of string.
Measure	To find the size of something in a given unit.	How might we measure how much flour we need to bake a cake?
Minus	A name for the symbol '-', which denotes the operation of subtraction.	Three minus one is equal to two.
More	A greater amount.	I have six apples and you have two. I have more .
Next	Comes immediately after the present one in order.	The next shape in my pattern is a square.
Number pair	A pair of numbers with a given total.	Five and four make a number bond to nine.
Number line	A linear, continuous representation of number. Each number occupies a point on the line, and there is an equal interval between each number.	This number line starts at zero and ends at ten.
Number Sentence	A number sentence is an equation or inequality expressed using numbers and mathematical symbols.	$5 + 7 = 12$



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Number track	A linear, discrete representation of number. Each number is positioned in a square on the track.	I can count from one to ten, moving a counter along this number track .
Order	Describes the placement of items according to given criteria or in a pattern. As a verb, to place items according to given criteria or in a pattern.	I have ordered the bears from smallest to biggest.
Pair	A set of two things used together.	Socks come in a pair – one for each foot.
Pattern	A systematic arrangement of numbers, shapes or other elements according to a rule.	The pattern is red, blue, red, blue, red blue.
Plus	The word representing the operation of addition. It is also the name for the symbol '+’.	Five apples plus two apples are equal to seven apples.
Rectangle	A quadrilateral with four right angles.	 
Second	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A unit of time. 2. An ordinal number. 	Mohsin is second in the line today.
Set	A defined group of objects, numbers or other elements.	I have placed all the purple counters in this set because they are all the same colour.
Share	To distribute fairly between a given number of recipients. This is one model for division.	I will share the crayons equally between the people at the table.
Short	An adjective used to describe length.	This string will not reach to the door. It is too short .
Side	A straight line that forms part of the boundary of a shape.	This shape has four straight sides .
Size	An element’s overall dimensions or magnitude.	The size of my shoe is smaller than my teacher’s.
Sort	To organise a set of elements into specified categories.	I will sort these objects based on their size.
Square	A quadrilateral with four equal length sides and four right angles.	



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Straight	A line or movement uniform in direction, without bends or curves.	The walls of the school are straight .
Subitise	Instantly recognising the number of objects in a small group without needing to count.	Recognising the number representing by dot on a dice without the need to count.
Subtract	Carry out the process of subtraction.	Nine subtract three is equal to six.
Subtraction	The inverse operation to addition.	We are taking some away so it is a subtraction question.
Surface	An outer boundary of a 3-D object.	This cone has a curved surface .
Take away	Used in the reduction structure of subtraction. To remove a number of items from a set.	He ate three of the sweets so we need to take away three counters.
Tall	Measuring a specific distance from top to bottom.	Our class teacher is not as tall as our head teacher.
Time	Related to duration. Measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years etc.	After lunch it will be time for P.E.
Total	The sum found by adding.	There are a total of five people at this table.
Triangle	A polygon with three sides.	
Weight	The force exerted on an object by gravity. Weight therefore changes with a change in gravitational force. Used interchangeably with mass until KS2.	The weight of this book is heavier than the pencil.
Zero	The number before one. It is neither positive nor negative.	Zero comes before one on the number track.