## **Mathematical Vocabulary**

## **Early Years**



## **Mathematics vocabulary list EYFS**

Listed below are the key mathematical terms your child will learn this year. This is the minimum we expect children to learn; however, we know children are curious and will undoubtedly want to learn more and we encourage this.

Vocabulary	Definition	<u>Example</u>
Number and Place Value		
Before	In front of or prior to.	'The number 3 comes <b>before</b> 5 on the number track'.
Between	A preposition that indicates location of an object with reference to two other objects, to the left of the first and the right of the second.	'4 is <b>between</b> 3 and 5 on our number track'.
Compare	Look for similarities and/or differences between at least two objects or sets.	'Let me compare these two sets – there are more red cars than blue cars.'
Count	Assigning one number name to each of a set of objects to determine how many there are.	'I <b>counted</b> the children in the group – there are four so we will need four pencils.'
Digit	A digit is a single symbol used to make numerals.	numeral 153 digit digit digit
Estimate	To find a value that is close enough to the right answer, usually with some thought or calculation involved.	'Can you <b>estimate</b> how many counters are below?'

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Fewer	A lesser amount – used when	'The girl has <b>fewer</b> blocks than the
	counting discrete objects, i.e.	boy'.
	countable objects such as, pens,	,
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	teddies, counters, etc.	
		English Unite
First	Before anything else.	'Fred is the <b>first</b> person in line'.
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		3 2 X X
		0000
First, second, third	'First, second, third, fourth, fifth, s	sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth'.
Greater	When a quantity or number is	'10 is <b>greater</b> than 8'.
Greater	1	10 is greater than 8 .
	bigger or larger than the second	
	or rest quantities or numbers.	
How many?	What number.	<b>'How many</b> counters are there on the
		5 frame?'
		3 jrume:
		,,,,,,,
		Liiii
Is the same as	Is equal to	'4 is <b>the same as</b> 3 + 1. It is also <b>the</b>
is the same as	l is equal to	same as 2 + 2'
Largest, greatest	The most in a set.	'The <b>greatest</b> number in the following
		set, 6, 3, 9 is 9'.
Last	Comes after all others in time or	'Rory is the <b>last</b> person in the line'.
Last		nory is the <b>iust</b> person in the line .
	order.	
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1		7777
		4444
1		1 1 1 1
		11111
Less	A smaller amount or not as	'I have 9p and you have 3p. You have
	much.	less money than me'.
Next	Comes immediately after the	'The <b>next</b> shape in my pattern is a
	present one in order.	square'.
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Number	A count or measurement.	is five
One, two, threeto twenty	'One, two, three, four, five, six, set thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen twenty.'	ven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, , seventeen, eighteen, nineteen,
Ones Tens	<u> </u>	gits. Each digit is a different place value. ells you that there is one <b>ten</b> . The last or is 2 in this example'.
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 <b>ordered</b> the chickens from biggest to smallest.'
Pair	A set of two things used together.	'Socks come in a <b>pair</b> – one for each foot'.
Pattern	A systematic arrangement of numbers, shapes or other elements according to a rule.	'The <b>pattern</b> is red, blue, red, blue, red blue'.
Subitise	Instantly recognising the number of objects in a small group, without counting.	'There are 9 dots here. I worked this out without counting. I <b>subitised</b> '.
Zero	The number before one. It is neither positive nor negative.	' <b>Zero</b> comes before one on the number track'.

Addition and subtraction		
Add	Carry out the process of addition.	'I can <b>add</b> two numbers together to find a total. 1+2=3"
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.	'eight plus three is equal to eleven. This is an <b>addition</b> question.'  Addition  8 + 3 = 11
Altogether	In total.	'That will be £2 <b>altogether</b> please.'
Commutative	Either of two laws relating to number operations of addition and multiplication, stated symbolically: a + b = b + a and ab = ba.	'6 + 3 equals the same as 3 + 6. This is the commutative law.'  6 + 3 = 3 + 6
Double	To multiply by two or add a value to itself.	'Four is double two.'  Double 2 $2 + 2 = 4$
Less	A smaller amount or not as much.	'I have two footballs. You have 10 footballs. I have less'.
More	A greater amount.	'I have twenty apples and you have five. I have more.'
Sum	The result of one or more additions.	'The <b>sum</b> of five and three is eight.'
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 <b>take away</b> three counters.'

Total	The sum found by adding.	'There are a <b>total</b> of five people at this table.'	
	Multiplication and division		
Doubling	To multiply by two or add a value to itself.	'Ten is <b>double</b> five.'	
Halving	One of two equal parts of a shape, quantity or object.	What is half of 4? 4 - 2 = 2	
Number patterns	A systematic arrangement of numbers, shapes or other elements according to a rule.	'The <b>number pattern</b> is 2, 4, 6, 8, 10.'	
Sharing	To distribute fairly between a given number of recipients. This is one model for division.	'I will <b>share</b> the crayons equally between the people at the table.'	
	Fractions		
Half	Either of two equal or corresponding parts into which something is or can be divided.	Half a triangle Half a Square Half a Circle	
Parts of a whole	A ratio or a fraction that represents a relationship between a part and its whole.	'A cake has been split into two <b>parts</b> . One part has been eaten.'	

Measurement		
Compare	Look for similarities and/or differences between at least two objects or sets.	'I can <b>compare</b> these two sets – this set has more.'
Guess Estimate	An estimate or conclusion	'My <b>guess</b> is about 11'
Measure	To find the size of something in a given unit.	'How might we <b>measure</b> how much sand there is in the sand tray?'
Size	An element's overall dimensions or magnitude.	'The <b>size</b> of my shoe is smaller than my teacher's.'
	Length	
Depth	The distance between the nearest end and farthest end of an object.	'Can you measure the <b>depth</b> of this box?'
Height	The vertical distance from the top to the base of the object.	'The <b>height</b> of this object is 12 cubes.'
Length	A linear measurement.	'The <i>length</i> of my snake is shorter than yours.'

Long	An adjective used to describe length.	'I have a <b>long</b> piece of string.'
Short	An adjective used to describe length.	'This bed is too <b>short</b> .'
Tall	Measuring a specific distance from top to bottom.	'The children are not as <b>tall</b> as the teacher.'
Width	The measurement of the distance of a side of an object.	'The <b>width</b> of this table is'
	Weight	
Balances	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 that the dish on the left side. The two objects <b>balance</b> which means they have the same mass.'
Heavy	Having a weight that is greater than that of another object.	'That box is heavy.'

Light	Having a weight that is less than that of another object.	'The banana in the monkey's hand is light.'  \ight
Scales	An instrument for weighing.	'Can you use the <b>scales</b> to weigh the cubes?'
Weigh	Find out how heavy something is.	'I have <b>weighed</b> the Lego model'
Weight	The force exerted on an object by gravity.	'The <b>weight</b> of this book is heavier than the pencil.'
	Capacity and volum	ne
Container	An object for holding or transporting something.	'What container will hold the most water?'
Empty	Containing nothing. Most commonly used in the context of measures	'There is no more water left in the jug – it is <b>empty.'</b>
Full	Contains/holds as much or as many as possible; has no empty space.	'The juice carton is not <b>full</b> because I drank some.'

Time		
Afternoon	The time from noon or lunchtime to evening.	'We are going to the forest this afternoon.'
Days of the week, Monday, Tuesday	'Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, T	hursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.'
Early	Near the beginning of a particular time or period.	'You have arrived <b>early</b> today.'
Evening	The period of time at the end of the day, usually from about 6 p.m. to bedtime.	'You go to bed in the <b>evening.'</b>
First	Comes before all others in time or order.	'The <b>first</b> thing we are going to do today is to wash our hands'.
Hour	A period of time equivalent to 60 minutes.	'We are having lunch in 1 hour.'
Last	Comes after all others in time or order.	'The <b>last</b> thing we are going to do today is read a story.'
Late	Doing something or taking place after the expected, proper, or usual time.	'The teacher has arrived <b>later</b> than expected.'
Morning	The period of time between midnight and noon.	'Good <b>morning</b> everyone'.
Night	The period from sunset to sunrise in each twenty-four hours.	'You can normally see the moon in the night.'
O'clock	'The time now is 1 o'clock.'	
Soon	In or after a short time.	'We are doing PE <b>soon.'</b>
Time	Related to duration. Measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years etc.	'After lunch it will be <b>time</b> for P.E.'
Today	The present day.	'The theatre are coming <b>today</b> '.
Tomorrow	The next day.	<b>'Tomorrow</b> , the weather will be snowy.'
Week	A period of seven days.	'Next <b>week</b> , we will be learning about farm animals.'
Yesterday	The previous day.	'Do you remember what we did yesterday?'

<u>Money</u>		
Buy	Obtain in exchange for payment	'How much is that item to <b>buy</b> ?'
Coin	A flat disc or piece of metal with an official stamp, used as money	'I have 5 <b>coins</b> here. I wonder how much I can buy from the shop?'
Money	Any object that is generally accepted as payment for goods and services.	'That is a lot of money!'
Pay	Give (someone) money that is due for work done, goods received.	'How much have I got to <b>pay</b> you for that?'
Penny/pence	A small sum of money.	'That will be 3 <b>pence</b> please'.
Pound	Equal to 100 pence.	'The cake will be one <b>pound</b> please'.
Price	The amount an item costs.	'What is the <b>price</b> of that please?'
Sell	Give or hand over (something) in exchange for money.	'I am not going to <b>sell</b> you this today'.
Spend	Give (money) to pay for goods, services	'How much money do you have to spend?'

<u>Properties of shape</u>		
Bigger, Larger	Of considerable size.	'Which of these fish is the biggest?'
Curved	A non-plane surface of a 3-D shape.  Both cones and cylinders have curved surfaces.	'This line is <b>curved</b> .'
Flat	A level surface.	'The table has a <b>flat</b> rectangular
Hollow	Having a hole or empty space inside.	'This box is hollow'.
Pattern	A systematic arrangement of numbers, shapes or other elements according to a rule.	'The <b>pattern</b> below is square, triangle, square, triangle.'
Repeating pattern	A design for decorating a surface composed of a number of elements (motifs) arranged in a regular or formal manner.	'Circle, rectangle, circle, rectanglethis is a <b>repeating pattern</b> of shapes'.
Round	A circular piece of something.	'This circle is <b>round</b> '.
Shape	A geometric figure such as a square, triangle, or rectangle.	'Which of these <b>shapes</b> has four sides?'
Size	An element's overall dimensions or magnitude.	'The <b>size</b> of my shoe is smaller than my teacher's.'
Smaller	Of a size that is less than normal or usual.	'Which of these fish is the smallest?'

Solid	Having three dimensions	'This suba is a <b>solid</b> shape'
Solid	Having three dimensions.	'This cube is a <b>solid</b> shape'.
Sort	Arrange systematically in groups.	'How could we <b>sort</b> these shapes?'
Straight	A line or movement uniform in	'The edges of the table are <b>straight.'</b>
	direction, without bends or	
	curves.	
Symmetrical	A balanced and a proportionate	'How can we see if this square is
Symmetrical	similarity which is found in two	symmetrical? Let's fold it'.
	halves of an object, that is, one-	
	half is the mirror image of the	
	other half.	
	2d shape	
	Zu Shape	
Corner	A point where two or more lines	'The table has four <b>corners</b> (vertices).'
	meet. The correct mathematical	
	term is vertex (vertices).	
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Circle	The name of a 2-D shape. A circle	
Circle	has a curved side.	
Rectangle	A quadrilateral with four right	
	angles.	
Side	A straight line that forms part of	'This shape has four straight <b>sides</b> .'
	the boundary of a shape.	
Square	A quadrilateral with four equal	
	length sides and four right	
	angles.	
Triangle	A polygon with three sides.	***

	3d shape	
Cone	A 3-D shape with one circular plane face, which tapers to an apex.	
Cube	A 3-D shape with six identical square faces.	
Cuboid	A 3-D shape with six rectangular faces.	
Cylinder	A 3-D shape with two circular faces joined by a curved surface.	
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 <b>edges</b> and a cube has 12 <b>edges</b> '.
Face	One of the plane surfaces of a solid shape.	'A cube has six <b>faces</b> .'
Pyramid	A 3-D shape with a polygonal base and otherwise triangular faces, which form edges with the base, and which meet at an apex.	epex base
Sphere	A 3-D shape with a continuous surface, which is at all points equidistant from its centre. It has an infinite number of flat faces and straight edges.	'A bowling ball is a <b>sphere</b> '.
Vertex, vertices	The point at which two or more lines intersect.	'This shape has five vertices'.  vertex  vertex  vertex  vertex

	Position and direction		
Above	'The ball is <b>above</b> the box'.		
Across	'Walk across the road'.		
Along	'The hare ran alongside the tortoise'.		
Apart	'Move apart from each other'		
Around	'The plane flew <b>around</b> the world'.		
Away from	'If you see a snake, run <b>away from</b> it'.		

Pack	'Plance come in through the <b>hack</b> of the house'
Back	'Please come in through the <b>back</b> of the house'.
Backwards	'Move <b>backwards</b> until you reach the wall'.
Behind	'The cat was <b>behind</b> the box'.
Below	'Below the tree, sat a little boy'.
Bend	'Bend over and touch your toes'.
Beside	'The cat sat <b>beside</b> the chair'.

Between	'The red ball is <b>between</b> the two cardboard boxes'.	
Bottom	'The little girl waved from the <b>bottom</b> of the classroom'.	
	top	
Close	'The children ran to the playground <b>close</b> together'.	
Corner	'Around the <b>corner</b> is the library'	
Direction	'Which <b>direction</b> do you think the postman needs to take next?'	
Down	'The girl slid <b>down</b> the slide'.	
Far	'Birmingham is quite <b>far</b> away from our school.'	
Forwards	'The girl walked <b>forward</b> through the corridor'.	
	forward	

From	'The man moved the boxes <b>from</b> th	e van to the school.'
Front	'The teacher was at the <b>front</b> of the class'.	
Half turn	A 180 degree rotation, i.e. ½ of a 360 degree or 'full' turn.	
In	'The dog hid <b>in</b> the box'.	
	The dog ma in the sox.	
Inside	'The two boys slept <b>inside</b> their ten	ts'.
	Mr. shape and the shape and th	
Left	'The green car is to the <b>left</b> of the r	ight car'.

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Middle	'The archer hit the <b>middle</b> of the target'.
Movement	'Let's stretch our arms really high in the air. Let's make big <b>movements</b> '.
Near	'The bear was near the tree'.
Next to	'The cat sat <b>next to</b> the ball of string'.
On	'The elephant balanced carefully <b>on</b> the ball'.
Opposite	'The man was on the <b>opposite</b> side of the wall'.

Outside	'The children played skipping <b>outside</b> '.	
Over	'The horse jumped <b>over</b> the fence'.	
Position	Location, expressed either	'The book is on the table. The clock is
	descriptively using positional prepositions, or specified by	hanging above the board. This is their <b>position</b> '.
	coordinates.	position .
Right	'The purple fish is to the <b>right</b> of the	e green fish'.
Roll	'Roll the ball along the floor'.	
Sideways	'Tilt your body <b>sideways</b> . Can you still balance?'	

Slide	'In the dance, we need to <b>slide</b> to the right'.
Stretch	'Before any exercise, we must <b>stretch</b> our muscles'.
Through	'Chuck the ball <b>through</b> the hoop and into the net'.
Тор	'The explorer climbed to the <b>top</b> of the mountain'
Towards	'The boy ran <b>towards</b> his mum at the end of the day'

Turn	'The two girls were dancing and <b>turned</b> on the spot'.	
Under	'The boy hid <b>under</b> his blanket and	read his book'.
	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	
Up	You can climb <b>up</b> the tree as long	as an adult helps you'.
Whole turn	360 degrees turn.	. +
		whole turn
Statistics		
Count	Assigning one number name to each of a set of objects to determine how many there are.	'I <b>counted</b> the children in the group — there are four so we will need four pencils.'
Group	To make equal size groups.	'I will <b>group</b> the crayons equally so that each person gets two.'
Set	A defined group of objects, numbers or other elements.	'I have placed all the purple counters in this <b>set</b> because they are all the same colour'.
Sort	To organise a set of elements into specified categories.	'I will <b>sort</b> these objects based on their size.'