

Lesson 3.1: The Tangent Ratio

Specific Outcome: 4.1 – Explain the relationships between similar right triangles and the definitions of the primary trigonometric ratios. 4.2 – Identify the hypotenuse of a right triangle and the opposite and adjacent sides for a given acute angle in the triangle. 4.4 – Solve a problem that involves one or more right triangles by applying the primary tri ratios or the Pythagorean theorem.

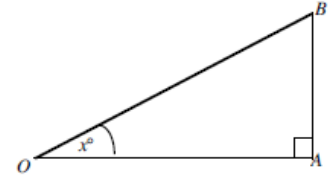
NAMING RIGHT-ANGLED TRIANGLES

Consider the right triangle AOB shown.

Each of the sides of the triangle is given a special name

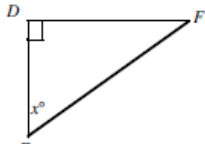
relative to the angle of x° or $\angle O$:

- the longest side is always called the _____ (label it on the diagram)
- the side directly across x° or $\angle O$ is called the _____ (label it)
- the third side is called the _____ (label it).

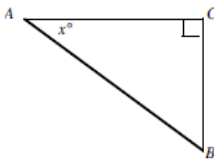


Practice: Given the following triangles, identify the name of each side according to the angle labelled.

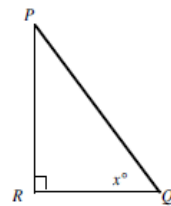
a)



b)



c)

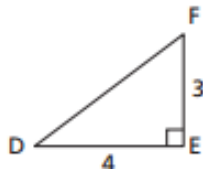


TANGENT RATIO

- Remember: A ratio is a fraction $\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)$.
- The **tangent ratio** of any angle is: $\frac{\text{the measure of the opposite side}}{\text{the measure of the adjacent side}}$
- We reduce it to $\tan A = \frac{o}{a}$
- The tangent ratio is expressed as a ratio or as a decimal.

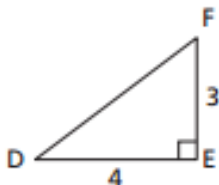
Determine $\tan D$ as a ratio and a decimal. Solution: 1. Label the sides according to $\angle D$

2. Use the *tan ratio* given above:



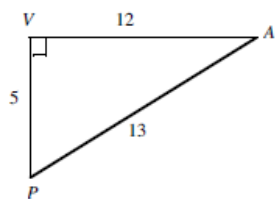
Determine $\tan F$ as a ratio and decimal. Solution: 1. Label the sides according to $\angle F$

2. Use the *tan ratio*:

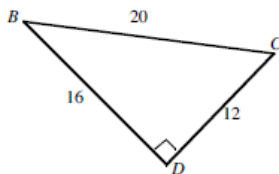


Practice: Determine the *tangent* ratio of the following. Express the answers as a ratio.

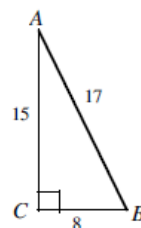
a) $\tan A$



b) $\tan B$

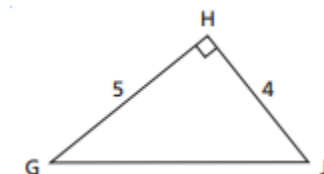


c) $\tan B$



USING TAN RATIO TO DETERMINE AN ANGLE'S MEASURE

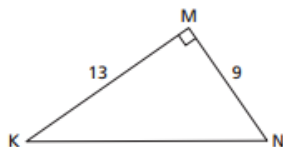
- The $\tan^{-1}$ button on your calculator will be used (*inverse tan*)
- Determine the measure of $\angle G$ to the nearest degree.



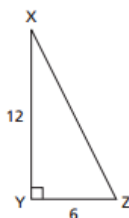
Practice:

1. Determine the measure of each angle to the nearest degree.

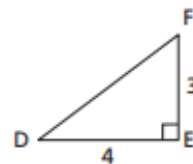
a) $\angle N$



b) $\angle Z$



c) $\angle F$



2. To the nearest degree, determine the measure of $\angle X$ for each value of $\tan X$.

a) $\tan X = 0.44$

b) $\tan X = \frac{11}{6}$

Problem Solving:

1. A 10 ft. ladder leans against the side of a building with its base 6 ft. from the wall. What angle, to the nearest degree, does the ladder make with the ground?

2. A rectangle has dimensions 3 cm by 8 cm. What angles does a diagonal line of the rectangle make with the sides of the rectangle? Give measures to nearest tenth of a degree.

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