

UNDERSTANDING MATH SYMBOLS

A symbol is a representation of an idea.

Math symbols are concise (very brief) and precise (very exact).

Symbols in mathematics may represent operations or procedures, separations or groupings, relationships, or quantities.

Each symbol is associated with a related word or phrase and also with a sequence of actions or steps.

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Some math symbols have meaning only in mathematics and have exactly one meaning.

examples: $\sqrt{\quad}$ %

Some symbols have more than one meaning in mathematics.

examples: • x -

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Some symbols have meaning in mathematics and also have meaning in ordinary language.

Sometimes the math meaning is related to the ordinary language meaning.

examples: ? " ...

Sometimes the math meaning is very different from the ordinary language meaning.

examples: () *

Name _____

Complete the table.

SYMBOL	NAME OF SYMBOL	EXAMPLE	WORD TRANSLATION	MEANING
+				
-				
x				
÷				
) ⁻				
=				
<				
>				
√ ⁻				
[] ² [] ³				
≠				
≈				
.				
:				
%				
()				
[]				
-				
/				