

# Distance with the Pythagorean Theorem

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 24

## Quick Review

To find the distance between two points on the coordinate plane, picture a right triangle: the *horizontal* change is one leg and the *vertical* change is the other leg, and the distance you want is the **hypotenuse**. The **distance formula** comes straight from the Pythagorean Theorem:  $d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$ . Find how far apart the  $x$ -values are, find how far apart the  $y$ -values are, square both, add, and take the square root. The order of subtraction doesn't matter because you square the result anyway.

◇ **Example:** Find the distance between  $A(1, 2)$  and  $B(4, 6)$ .

⇒ Think of a right triangle connecting the two points. The horizontal leg is the change in  $x$ :  $4 - 1 = 3$ . The vertical leg is the change in  $y$ :  $6 - 2 = 4$ . Now use the Pythagorean Theorem:  $d = \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{9 + 16} = \sqrt{25} = 5$ . The two points are 5 units apart.

**Answer:**  $d = 5$

## PRACTICE

Find the distance between the two points.

- |                             |       |                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1. $(0, 0)$ and $(3, 4)$    | _____ | 11. $(-4, -1)$ and $(4, 5)$ | _____ |
| 2. $(0, 0)$ and $(6, 8)$    | _____ | 12. $(2, -3)$ and $(10, 3)$ | _____ |
| 3. $(0, 0)$ and $(5, 12)$   | _____ | 13. $(0, 0)$ and $(8, 15)$  | _____ |
| 4. $(0, 0)$ and $(9, 12)$   | _____ | 14. $(1, 2)$ and $(8, 26)$  | _____ |
| 5. $(1, 1)$ and $(4, 5)$    | _____ | 15. $(5, 5)$ and $(5, 12)$  | _____ |
| 6. $(2, 3)$ and $(10, 9)$   | _____ | 16. $(-3, 4)$ and $(6, 4)$  | _____ |
| 7. $(-2, -3)$ and $(1, 1)$  | _____ | 17. $(0, 0)$ and $(2, 2)$   | _____ |
| 8. $(-3, -2)$ and $(9, 3)$  | _____ | 18. $(1, 1)$ and $(4, 2)$   | _____ |
| 9. $(3, 4)$ and $(15, 9)$   | _____ | 19. $(-2, 1)$ and $(1, 5)$  | _____ |
| 10. $(-1, 4)$ and $(5, -4)$ | _____ | 20. $(6, 2)$ and $(2, -1)$  | _____ |

### Word Problems

21. On a city map, the library is at  $(2, 3)$  and the school is at  $(10, 9)$ , where each unit is one block. How many blocks apart are they in a straight line? \_\_\_\_\_
22. A drone takes off from  $(0, 0)$  on a grid and lands at  $(9, 12)$ , where each unit is 1 meter. How far did it travel in a straight line? \_\_\_\_\_
23. Two ships are tracked on a radar grid. One is at  $(-3, -2)$  and the other at  $(9, 3)$ , with each unit equal to 1 nautical mile. How far apart are the ships? \_\_\_\_\_
24. A hiker walks from a trailhead at  $(1, 2)$  to a lookout at  $(8, 26)$  on a map where each unit is 100 feet. What is the straight-line distance in feet? \_\_\_\_\_



## Answer Keys

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <input type="text" value="5"/>   | 13. <input type="text" value="17"/>                |
| 2. <input type="text" value="10"/>  | 14. <input type="text" value="25"/>                |
| 3. <input type="text" value="13"/>  | 15. <input type="text" value="7"/>                 |
| 4. <input type="text" value="15"/>  | 16. <input type="text" value="9"/>                 |
| 5. <input type="text" value="5"/>   | 17. <input type="text" value="2√2"/>               |
| 6. <input type="text" value="10"/>  | 18. <input type="text" value="√10"/>               |
| 7. <input type="text" value="5"/>   | 19. <input type="text" value="5"/>                 |
| 8. <input type="text" value="13"/>  | 20. <input type="text" value="5"/>                 |
| 9. <input type="text" value="13"/>  | 21. <input type="text" value="10 blocks"/>         |
| 10. <input type="text" value="10"/> | 22. <input type="text" value="15 meters"/>         |
| 11. <input type="text" value="10"/> | 23. <input type="text" value="13 nautical miles"/> |
| 12. <input type="text" value="10"/> | 24. <input type="text" value="2500 feet"/>         |

### Step-by-Step Explanations

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Legs 3 and 4: <math>\sqrt{9+16} = \sqrt{25} = 5</math>.</p> <p>2. Legs 6 and 8: <math>\sqrt{36+64} = \sqrt{100} = 10</math>.</p> <p>3. Legs 5 and 12: <math>\sqrt{25+144} = \sqrt{169} = 13</math>.</p> <p>4. Legs 9 and 12: <math>\sqrt{81+144} = \sqrt{225} = 15</math>.</p> <p>5. Legs 3 and 4: <math>\sqrt{9+16} = \sqrt{25} = 5</math>.</p> <p>6. Legs 8 and 6: <math>\sqrt{64+36} = \sqrt{100} = 10</math>.</p> <p>7. Legs 3 and 4: <math>\sqrt{9+16} = \sqrt{25} = 5</math>.</p> <p>8. Legs 12 and 5: <math>\sqrt{144+25} = \sqrt{169} = 13</math>.</p> <p>9. Legs 12 and 5: <math>\sqrt{144+25} = \sqrt{169} = 13</math>.</p> <p>10. Legs 6 and 8: <math>\sqrt{36+64} = \sqrt{100} = 10</math>.</p> <p>11. Legs 8 and 6: <math>\sqrt{64+36} = \sqrt{100} = 10</math>.</p> <p>12. Legs 8 and 6: <math>\sqrt{64+36} = \sqrt{100} = 10</math>.</p> <p>13. Legs 8 and 15: <math>\sqrt{64+225} = \sqrt{289} = 17</math>.</p> <p>14. Legs 7 and 24: <math>\sqrt{49+576} = \sqrt{625} = 25</math>.</p> | <p>15. Same <math>x</math>, so the distance is just the vertical change: <math>12 - 5 = 7</math>.</p> <p>16. Same <math>y</math>, so the distance is the horizontal change: <math>6 - (-3) = 9</math>.</p> <p>17. Legs 2 and 2: <math>\sqrt{4+4} = \sqrt{8} = 2\sqrt{2}</math>.</p> <p>18. Legs 3 and 1: <math>\sqrt{9+1} = \sqrt{10}</math>.</p> <p>19. Legs 3 and 4: <math>\sqrt{9+16} = \sqrt{25} = 5</math>.</p> <p>20. Legs 4 and 3: <math>\sqrt{16+9} = \sqrt{25} = 5</math>.</p> <p>21. The horizontal change is 8 and the vertical change is 6, so the distance is <math>\sqrt{8^2+6^2} = \sqrt{100} = 10</math> blocks.</p> <p>22. The legs are 9 and 12, so the straight-line distance is <math>\sqrt{9^2+12^2} = \sqrt{225} = 15</math> m.</p> <p>23. The horizontal change is 12 and the vertical change is 5, so the distance is <math>\sqrt{12^2+5^2} = \sqrt{169} = 13</math> nautical miles.</p> <p>24. The legs are 7 and 24, so the grid distance is <math>\sqrt{49+576} = \sqrt{625} = 25</math> units. Each unit is 100 ft, so that is <math>25 \times 100 = 2500</math> ft.</p> |
|---|--|



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