

4C: Reading/Writing Math Symbols

For use after Lesson 4-6

Study Skill After you take notes on an assignment, go back and use a highlighter to mark key words or phrases that can serve as headings to separate topics. Then, when you review your notes later, you can quickly find the particular information you are seeking.

All the symbols and numbers in mathematics are not written on the same line, nor are they all the same size. Some symbols are written above the baseline as superscripts, for example, s^2 . Others are written below the line as subscripts, for example, (x_1, y_1) . Occasionally there may be still another position for a number, a position that has a special meaning mathematically.

Fill in the blanks.

1. A number that is written smaller, to the right, and raised is called an _____.
2. An exponent tells how many times the _____ is used as a factor.
3. Write the symbol that means the element in the m th row and n th column of matrix A . _____

For Exercises 4–7, write an expression for each phrase.

4. the cube of a _____
5. the fourth root of b _____
6. the cube root of $(a + b)$ _____
7. the square of a , plus the square of b _____