

The Language of Maths Exams: What does it all mean!?

<u>What they say</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>What they mean</u>
Complete	Complete this sum... Complete the following table...Complete the sentence	Finish this off for me (Fill in the blanks)
Find	Find the sum of...Find the square root of...	Tell me what the sum of...Tell me the square root of...
Simplify	Simplify $e + 7e$	Write as simply as possible/ put this in its easiest form i.e. $e + 7e = 8e$
Solve	Solve $9x = 45$	Tell me what..(x in this case)...equals i.e. $x=5$
Work Out	Work out 6^2	Tell me what 6^2 is
You must show your working		If you don't show your working you won't get all the marks for this question!
Calculate	Calculate the average speed...	You will need to do a calculation (with or/and without your calculator) to get the answer
Explain	Explain why this is wrong	Write down a reason why this is wrong/ tell me why this is wrong using a reason
Give the units of your answer		Make sure you put down what your answer is measured in i.e. cm, Km, mm, cm^2 , mph, Km/h, cm^3 ...(you'll get a mark for this alone!!)
Describe fully	Describe fully the single transformation...	Write down a full description of what is happening i.e. for Enlargement you need to give the scale factor and the centre of enlargement. For a Rotation you need to give the centre of rotation, amount of degrees you are rotating and the direction (clockwise or anti-clockwise) For a Reflection you need to give the equation of the line that you are reflecting in For a translation (move) you need to give the column vector (how much you are moving in the x-direction and y-direction)
NOT TO SCALE	Usually next to diagrams/drawings	You can't measure the lines/angles on this shape as they are not drawn accurately!
Use ruler and compasses only in this question		You will only need to use your ruler and your compass – make sure you have one of each!!! If not, ask for one in the exam!
equidistant		Equal distance
Map (coordinates & transformations)	Will map point A onto point B	Will move point A to where point B is
Fill in the gaps		Anywhere there is a blank space (gap) you should put an answer

Arrange	Arrange the following...	Put in a certain order
ascending		From smallest to biggest
descending		From biggest to smallest
select	Select two of these numbers...	Choose from the given list and use them to answer the question!
equivalent		The same
Explain how to do it		Write down how you would work out the answer, but don't actually work it out!
measure	Measure the line above...Measure the angle below...	Use your ruler or protractor to find the length of a line or the size of an angle
Draw and label	Draw and label an angle of 50° ...Draw and label a line of 6cm	Draw the angle/line with your protractor/ruler and then write the length of the line/size of the angle on your drawing
Give a reason for your choice		Give the answer and then a reason for why it is the answer (you'll get a 1 mark for the answer and 1 mark for the reason in a 2 mark question)
represents		shows
Give your answer in its simplest form		Put your answer as simple as possible. i.e. for fractions always put your fraction as simple/small as possible so $\frac{3}{6}$ in its simplest form is $\frac{1}{2}$
hence	Hence, solve this...	Using what you have just done, answer this question
Give a mathematical reason		Using your Maths knowledge give a reason for your answer
estimate	Estimate 4.7×6.2	Don't work out exactly but round up the numbers and then tell me the answer i.e. $5 \times 6 = 30$
Construct		draw
This is a sketch of...		This is not drawn accurately so you can't just measure the sides/angles to get the answer. Use the labels in the sketch to answer the question
Show that	Show that $\frac{13}{50}$ is the same as 26%	Tell us why...
Show your working clearly		Write down every step of you working out your answer – you'll get marks for your working outs
Describe	Describe the correlation...	Tell me what the correlation is...Tell me...
Make one comment	Make one comment about...	Tell me one thing you notice about...