

EAL &amp; NEW ARRIVALS · GRADES 1–4

# EAL Math Vocabulary

40 essential words

## Why this matters

Math seems like it should transcend language — but the words you use IN math are often the hardest part for an EAL learner. A child who can do  $4+3$  may freeze when asked to 'find the SUM' or 'CALCULATE the answer'. This pack covers the 40 words that unlock most primary math lessons.

## Operations (12 words)

Word	Symbol	Means	Example
add	+	put together	2 add 3 is 5
plus	+	same as add	2 plus 3 is 5
sum	—	the answer when you add	The sum of 2 and 3 is 5
total	—	all together	The total is 5
subtract	–	take away	5 subtract 2 is 3
minus	–	same as subtract	5 minus 2 is 3
take away	–	remove	Take 2 away from 5
difference	—	how far apart	The difference between 5 and 2 is 3
multiply	×	groups of	3 multiply 4 is 12
times	×	same as multiply	3 times 4 is 12



Word	Symbol	Means	Example
divide	÷	share	12 divide 4 is 3
equals	=	is the same as	2 + 3 equals 5

## Numbers and quantity (10 words)

Word	Means	Example
more	a bigger amount	5 is more than 3
less	a smaller amount	3 is less than 5
fewer	a smaller amount (countable)	Fewer apples
greater	more (formal word)	5 is greater than 3
smaller	less (size)	3 is smaller than 5
larger	more (size)	5 is larger than 3
double	twice as much	Double 4 is 8
half	split in two equal parts	Half of 8 is 4
quarter	one of four equal parts	Quarter of 8 is 2
whole	all of it	The whole pizza

## Shapes and space (10 words)

Word	Picture	Means
circle	■	Round
square	■	4 equal sides
triangle	■	3 sides
rectangle	■	2 long sides, 2 short sides
straight	—	Not curved
curved	■	Bent into a curve
above	↑	Higher up



Word	Picture	Means
below	↓	Lower down
left	←	This side
right	→	Other side

## Time (8 words)

Word	Means
minute	60 seconds
hour	60 minutes
day	24 hours
week	7 days
month	Roughly 30 days
year	12 months
before	Earlier
after	Later

## Using these in lessons

Don't pre-teach all 40 words at once. Pick the 5–6 you'll use in this week's lessons. Display them on the wall. Refer to them constantly. As children master them, take them down and add new ones. For each new word: say it, write it, draw a picture, use it in a sentence. Repetition is the only way these stick.

