

# Application Trigonometry Answers

## Geometry – Unit 6 Practice Trigonometry Applications in Right Triangles

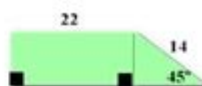
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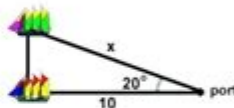
- 1) The figure shown is a trapezoid. Using the information given, find the area of this trapezoid to the nearest square unit. The area formula for a trapezoid is

$$A = \frac{(b_1 + b_2)h}{2}$$

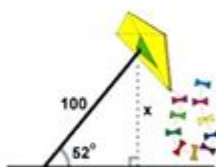


- 2) A 16 foot ladder is leaning against a house. It touches the bottom of a window that is 12 feet 6 inches above the ground. What is the measure of the angle that the ladder forms with the ground? Round to the nearest  $10^\circ$  of a degree.
- 3) Haley is flying a kite whose string is making a  $70^\circ$  angle with the ground. The kite string is 65 meters long. How far is the kite above the ground?
- 4) A surveyor is 100 meters from the base of a dam. The angle of elevation to the top of the dam measures  $26^\circ$ . The surveyor's eye-level is 1.73 meters above the ground. Find the height of the dam to the nearest hundredth of a meter.

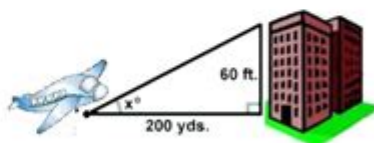
- 5) Two boats leave the same port. One goes 10 miles due west and drops anchor. The other leaves the port 20 degrees north of west. How far must it go in a straight line to get as far west as the first boat?



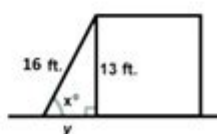
- 6) A girl flies a kite with a 100 foot string. The angle of elevation of the string is  $52^\circ$ . How high off the ground is the kite?



- 7) An airplane takes off 200 yards in front of a 60 foot building. At what angle of elevation must the plane take off in order to avoid crashing into the building? Assume that the airplane flies in a straight line and the angle of elevation remains constant until the airplane flies over the building.



- 8) A 16 foot ladder is used to scale a 13 foot wall. At what angle of elevation must the ladder be situated in order to reach the top of the wall? According to ladder safety sources, the distance from the ladder's base to the wall should equal one-fourth the distance from the base of the wall to the point where the ladder touches the wall. Find y and determine if the placement of this ladder is safe.



**Application trigonometry answers** are crucial for solving a wide range of practical problems in various fields, including engineering, physics, architecture, and even everyday life. Trigonometry, the branch of mathematics that deals with the relationships between the angles and sides of triangles, provides essential tools and formulas that allow us to analyze and solve problems involving angular measurements and distances. This article will explore the various applications of trigonometry, provide examples of real-world problems, and highlight the methods used to find solutions.

## Understanding the Basics of Trigonometry

Before diving into the applications of trigonometry, it is essential to understand some foundational concepts:

# Trigonometric Ratios

Trigonometry revolves around the three primary functions derived from a right triangle:

1. Sine (sin): Opposite side / Hypotenuse
2. Cosine (cos): Adjacent side / Hypotenuse
3. Tangent (tan): Opposite side / Adjacent side

These ratios help in determining unknown angles and distances when certain information is available.

## Identifying Angles and Sides

In any right triangle:

- The hypotenuse is the longest side, opposite the right angle.
- The opposite side is opposite the angle of interest.
- The adjacent side is the side that forms the angle with the hypotenuse.

Understanding these terms is critical for applying trigonometric principles effectively.

## Applications of Trigonometry in Various Fields

Trigonometry finds its application in numerous domains. Below are some prominent areas where trigonometric concepts are employed.

### 1. Engineering

In engineering, trigonometry is used extensively for:

- Structural Analysis: Engineers utilize trigonometric functions to determine forces acting on structures, ensuring they can withstand various loads. By analyzing the angles and lengths of components, engineers can design safe and efficient structures.
- Electrical Engineering: Alternating current (AC) circuit analysis relies on trigonometric functions to represent current and voltage as sinusoidal waveforms. Phase angles and impedances are calculated using trigonometric identities.

### 2. Physics

Trigonometry plays a vital role in physics, particularly in:

- Wave Motion: The study of waves, whether mechanical or electromagnetic, often involves trigonometric functions to describe their characteristics, such as amplitude and frequency.
- Projectile Motion: The motion of objects under the influence of gravity can be analyzed using trigonometric ratios to resolve vertical and horizontal components, providing insights into trajectory and range.

### **3. Architecture and Construction**

Trigonometry is indispensable in architecture and construction for:

- Designing Buildings: Architects use trigonometric calculations to create blueprints, ensuring structures have the correct dimensions and angles for stability and aesthetics.
- Roof Construction: Trigonometric principles help in determining the pitch of roofs, allowing builders to calculate the required materials and angles necessary for proper drainage and support.

### **4. Navigation and Geography**

In navigation and geography, trigonometry aids in:

- GPS Technology: Global Positioning Systems (GPS) rely on triangulation methods, which use the principles of trigonometry to pinpoint locations based on signals from satellites.
- Map Reading: Understanding angles and distances on maps often involves trigonometric calculations, enabling navigators to plot courses accurately.

### **5. Astronomy**

Trigonometry is fundamental in astronomy for:

- Celestial Measurements: Astronomers use trigonometric methods to calculate distances between celestial bodies and their positions in the sky, enabling the mapping of stars and planets.
- Understanding Orbits: The orbits of planets and satellites can be analyzed using trigonometric functions to predict their paths and positions over time.

## **Examples of Real-World Problems**

Here are some practical examples that illustrate how to apply trigonometry to solve real-world problems.

## Example 1: Calculating Heights

Suppose you want to find the height of a tree. You stand 50 meters away from the base of the tree and measure the angle of elevation to the top of the tree as 30 degrees.

To calculate the height (h) of the tree, use the tangent function:

$$\tan(\theta) = \frac{\text{Opposite}}{\text{Adjacent}} \implies \tan(30^\circ) = \frac{h}{50}$$

Solving for h:

$$h = 50 \cdot \tan(30^\circ) \approx 50 \cdot 0.577 = 28.85 \text{ meters}$$

So, the height of the tree is approximately 28.85 meters.

## Example 2: Finding Distances

Consider a scenario where you need to determine the distance between two points across a river. You stand on one bank and observe a point directly across the river at a 45-degree angle. If you measure 100 meters down the bank to a second point and find the angle to the second point across the river is 60 degrees, you can use the sine law to find the distance across the river (d).

Using the sine rule:

$$\frac{d}{\sin(60^\circ)} = \frac{100}{\sin(45^\circ)}$$

Solving for d:

$$d = 100 \cdot \frac{\sin(60^\circ)}{\sin(45^\circ)} \approx 100 \cdot \frac{0.866}{0.707} \approx 122.47 \text{ meters}$$

Thus, the distance across the river is approximately 122.47 meters.

## Conclusion

**Application trigonometry answers** are indispensable in solving a multitude of practical

problems across various fields. From engineering and physics to navigation and astronomy, the principles of trigonometry provide essential tools for analysis and decision-making. By understanding the fundamental trigonometric ratios and applying them to real-world scenarios, individuals can accurately determine measurements, analyze forces, and make informed decisions based on mathematical reasoning. Whether you're an engineer designing a new structure or a student learning the ropes of trigonometry, mastering these concepts opens doors to a deeper understanding of the world around you.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is application trigonometry?**

Application trigonometry involves using trigonometric concepts and functions to solve real-world problems, such as calculating heights, distances, and angles in various fields like engineering, physics, and architecture.

### **How is trigonometry used in architecture?**

In architecture, trigonometry is used to calculate structural loads, angles of elevation, and dimensions of buildings to ensure stability and aesthetic design.

### **Can trigonometry help in navigation?**

Yes, trigonometry is essential in navigation for calculating distances and plotting courses using angles, especially in maritime and aerial navigation.

### **What are some real-world applications of sine, cosine, and tangent?**

Sine, cosine, and tangent are used in various applications such as wave motion analysis, sound and light propagation, and in designing mechanical systems to model oscillations.

### **How do engineers apply trigonometry in their work?**

Engineers use trigonometry to analyze forces, design components, and calculate angles in structures and machinery, ensuring functionality and safety.

### **What role does trigonometry play in computer graphics?**

In computer graphics, trigonometry is used to calculate angles and positions for rendering 3D objects, animations, and simulations, creating realistic visual effects.

### **How can trigonometry be applied in sound engineering?**

Trigonometry is applied in sound engineering to analyze sound waves, determine frequencies, and design acoustically optimized spaces.

## What is the significance of the unit circle in trigonometry applications?

The unit circle is fundamental in trigonometry as it provides a geometric representation of trigonometric functions, helping to understand angles and their corresponding values in various applications.

## How does trigonometry assist in sports analytics?

Trigonometry aids in sports analytics by analyzing player movements, calculating angles of shots, and optimizing strategies based on trajectory and distance.

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