

Name: _____

Period: _____

Vocabulary Words and Definitions for Algebra

Word/Phrase	Definition	I know what it means	I think I know what it means	I don't know what it means
Absolute Value	The distance between zero and the point representing a real number on the number line			
Additive Inverse	The opposite of a number			
Algebraic Expression	An expression that contains at least one variable			
Ascending Order	Putting terms in order "going up" based on the exponents			
Associative Property	For any numbers a, b, and c: $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$ and $(ab)c = a(bc)$			
Axis of Symmetry	The line that divides a graph into two symmetrical parts that are mirror images of each other			
Base	The repeated factor of a number written in exponential form			
Binomial	A polynomial consisting of two terms			
Coefficient	This is the number in front of the variables in a term			
Combine Like Terms	Add or subtract terms that have the same variable and exponent			
Commutative Property	For any numbers a, b and c: $a + b + c = a + c + b$ and $abc = cba$			
Completing the Square	The process of rewriting a quadratic equation so that one side is a perfect square trinomial			
Compound Inequality	Two inequalities that are combined into one statement by the word <i>and</i> or <i>or</i>			
Consistent System	A system of equations that has at least one solution			
Constant	A term with no variables			
Converse	Opposite			
Coordinate Plane	Formed by two number lines that intersect at their zero points			
Coordinates	Ordered pairs that identify points on a plane			
Deductive Reasoning	The process of using logic to draw conclusions			
Denominator	The lower half of a fraction			
Dependent System	A system of equations that has infinitely many solutions			
Descending Order	Putting terms in order "going down" based on the exponents			

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Difference	The answer to a subtraction problem			
Difference of Two Squares	A binomial whose terms are squares and have a minus sign between them			
Direct Variation	A linear relationship between two variables where there is a non-zero number k ; $y = kx$			
Discriminant	The expression inside the radical of the quadratic formula			
Distributive Property	For any real numbers a , b , and c , $a(b + c) = ab + ac$			
Domain	The set of all first coordinates (x -values) of a relation or function			
Elimination Method	Used to solve systems in which one variable is eliminated by adding or subtracting two equations in the system			
Equation	A mathematical sentence with an equal sign			
Equivalent Expressions	Expressions that are equal to each other			
Equivalent Inequalities	Inequalities that have the same solution set			
Evaluate	Replace each variable with a number and follow the order of operations			
Expand	Means to multiply			
Exponent	The number of times the base is used as a factor			
Extraneous Solution	An answer that does not satisfy the original equation			
Factor	An integer that divides another integer with no remainder			
Factored Form	Rewriting a polynomial as the product of two or more factors			
Factorization	A representation of an expression as a product of two or more expressions			
Fractional Exponent	An exponent that can be written as m/n where $n \neq 0$			
Function	A relation in which every domain value is paired with exactly one range value			
Function Notation	If x is the independent variable and y is the dependent variable, then for y is $f(x)$, read "f of x", where f names the function			
Graph	Drawing a line to represent the solutions to an equation or inequality			
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Greatest Common Factor	The largest number that divides into two terms			
Grouping Symbols	Symbols such as parentheses (), brackets [], and braces { } that separate a part of an expression. A fraction bar, absolute value symbols and radical symbols may also be used as grouping symbols			
Inconsistent System	A system of equations that has no solution			
Independent System	A system of equations that has exactly one solution			
Inequality	A sentence that uses one of the following symbols: < , > , ≤ , ≥			
Infinite Solutions	When the answer to a system of equations is exactly the same			
Integer	The set of whole numbers and their opposites			
Intersection	The set of all elements that are common to both sets, denoted by a \cap			
Inverse Operations	Two operations that undo each other, such as addition and subtraction			
Inverse Variation	A non-linear relationship between two variables where there is a non-zero number k; $y = k/x$			
Irrational Number	A number that can be represented by a non-repeating, non-terminating decimal			
Isolate the Variable	Collecting like terms and/or using inverse operations to get the variable by itself on one side of the equation			
Least Common Denominator	The smallest denominator that two or more numbers have in common			
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Like Terms	Terms with the same variables raised to the same exponent			
Linear Equation	An equation written with one or more variables where the exponent of the variable is one			
Linear Inequality	An inequality written with one or more variables where the exponent of the variable is one			
Monomial	A polynomial consisting of one term			
Multiple	The products of this number and any non-zero number			

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Multiplicative Identity Property	Any number multiplied by one is that number			
Multiplicative Inverse	The reciprocal of a number			
Multiplicative Property of Zero	Any number multiplied by zero is zero			
Natural Number	The set of counting numbers			
No Solution	When there is no answer to a system of equations or inequalities			
Numerator	The upper half of a fraction			
Numerical Expression	An expression that represents a particular number			
Opposites	Numbers that have the same distance from 0 on a number line			
Order of Operations	The rules for evaluating an expression involving more than one operation			
Ordered Pair	A pair of numbers (x, y) used to identify a point in a coordinate plane			
Origin	The intersection of the x axis and y axis on the coordinate plane			
Parabola	An up-turned or down-turned U-shaped graph			
Parallel	Lines or planes that never intersect			
Perfect Square	The square of an integer			
Perfect Square Trinomial or Trinomial Square	Can be factored as the square of a binomial			
Perpendicular	Lines or planes that intersect to form right angles			
Point-Slope Equation	A non-vertical line that contains a point (x1, y1) and has a slope of m and is found in the format of $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$			
Polynomial	A monomial or sum of monomials			
Power	An expression written with a base and an exponent			
Prime Factorization	A representation of a number or a polynomial as a product of primes			
Prime Number	A whole number greater than or equal to 2 that has exactly two positive factors, 1 and itself			
Product	The answer to a multiplication problem			
Properties of Equality	Rules that transform an equation into an equivalent equation			
Property	A law that is followed in mathematics			

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Quadrant	One of the four regions into which coordinate axes divides a plane			
Quadratic Expression	A collection of terms that has one term that contains a variable to the second power			
Quadratic Formula	Used to find solutions to an equation that has a term with a variable to the second power			
Quotient	The answer to a division problem			
Rate	A ratio that compares two quantities measured in different units			
Ratio	The relationship a/b of two quantities, a and b			
Rational Expression	A fraction whose numerator and denominator are non-zero polynomials			
Rational Number	Any number that you can write as a quotient of two integers a/b where b is not 0			
Rational Number	Any number that you can write as a quotient of two integers a/b where b is not 0			
Real Number	The set of numbers that include all rational and irrational numbers			
Reciprocal	For a real number, $a \neq 0$, this is $1/a$			
Repeating Decimal	A rational number that has a block of one or more digits (that are not all zero) after the decimal point that continually show up			
Replacement Set	A set of numbers that can be substituted for a variable			
Rise	The difference in the y -values of two points on a line			
Run	The difference in the x -values of two points on a line			
Simplest Form	Is where the only common factor of a numerator and denominator is 1			
Simplest Form	Is where the only common factor of a numerator and denominator is 1			
Simplified Expression	To replace with an equivalent expression having as few terms as possible			
Simplify	Put expressions into their most reduced form			
Slope	A measure of steepness of a line, represented by m			
Slope-Intercept Form	A line with slope m and y -intercept b has an equation $y=mx+b$			
Solution	A value that makes the equation true			

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Solution of a Linear Inequality	Answers that make an inequality true			
Solve	To find a solution to an equation or inequality			
Standard Form of an Equation	$AX + BY = C$ where A, B and C are constants, there are no fractions and A must be positive			
Standard Form of Polynomials	When the terms of a polynomial are in order from greatest to least based on the value of the exponent			
Substitution Method	A method used to solve systems by solving an equation for one variable and replacing the resulting expression into the other equation			
Sum	The answer to an addition problem			
System of Equations	A set of two or more linear equations that contain 2 or more variables			
Terminating Decimal	A rational number that has a finite number of digits after the decimal point			
Terms of an Expression	The parts that are added or subtracted from an expression			
Trinomial	A polynomial consisting of three terms			
Undefined	When there is no solution to the problem			
Union	The set of all elements, denoted by a U			
Variable	A letter that represents one or more numbers			
Variable Expression	A symbolic form made up of constants, variables and operations			
Whole Number	A number system that includes the Natural Numbers and Zero			
X-Axis	The horizontal number line of a coordinate plane			
X-Intercept	The point where a graph intersects the x-axis			
Y-Axis	The vertical number line of a coordinate plane			
Y-Intercept	The point where a graph intersects the y-axis			