

Command Words Explained

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5. Giving and presenting answers

Command words are words used in GCSE Maths exam questions. They tell you exactly what you need to do to answer a question and get the marks.

Command word	What does it mean?
Write down	Give the answer directly. You usually do not need calculations.
Write	Give the required information. Some working may be needed.
State	Give a short, clear answer.
List	Write all the answers that fit the rule.
Complete	Fill in missing numbers or information.
Tick	Put a tick next to the correct answer.
Give your answer in its simplest form	Simplify your final answer as much as possible.
Give your answer to ... decimal places	Round your answer to the required number of decimal places.
Give your answer to ... significant figures	Round your answer to the required number of significant figures.
State the units	Include the correct measurement unit.
Write down your full calculator display	Copy all digits shown on your calculator.
Give your answer as a fraction	Write your final answer as a fraction.

Test yourself

Challenge A – True or False?

"Tick" means mark the correct option with a tick. ____

"Write down your full calculator display" means round your answer to 2 decimal places. ____

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Challenge B – Guess the Command Word

Word Bank: State | List | Complete | Circle | Write down

1. Give a short, clear answer. _____
2. Write every answer that fits the rule. _____
3. Fill in missing information. _____
4. Draw a circle around the correct answer. _____
5. Give an answer directly, usually without working. _____

Challenge C – Choose the Correct Answer

What does "Give your answer in its simplest form" mean?

- a. Round the answer.
- b. Simplify as much as possible.
- c. Write a decimal answer.

What does "Give your answer to 2 decimal places" mean?

- a. Round to two digits after the decimal point.
- b. Round to two significant figures.
- c. Write two different answers.

What does "State the units" mean?

- a. Write the answer in words.
- b. Show all calculations.
- c. Include the correct measurement unit.

What does "Give your answer to ... significant figures" mean?

- a. Give the answer directly. You usually do not need calculations.
- b. Show all calculations.
- c. Round your answer to the required number of significant figures..