

Command Words Explained

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7. Transformations

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.

When a question asks you to **describe a single transformation fully**, you must include all the required information.

Transformation	What must you include?
Reflection	The equation of the mirror line.
Rotation	The angle, direction and centre of rotation.
Translation	The translation vector.
Enlargement	The scale factor and centre of enlargement.

Circle the reason for your answer (congruence): means you must choose the correct congruence rule: SSS, SAS, ASA or RHS.

Test yourself

Challenge A – Guess the Transformation

Choose the correct transformation.

Word Bank: Reflection | Rotation | Translation | Enlargement

A shape moves without turning or flipping. _____

A shape turns around a fixed point. _____

A shape becomes bigger or smaller by a scale factor. _____

A shape is flipped across a mirror line. _____

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Challenge B – What Information Is Missing?

Choose the correct answer.

To describe a rotation fully, you need the angle, direction and ...

- a. Scale factor
- b. Centre of rotation
- c. Mirror line

To describe a reflection fully, you need ...

- a. The equation of the mirror line.
- b. A translation vector.
- c. A scale factor.

To describe an enlargement fully, you need the scale factor and ...

- a. Direction of rotation.
- b. Translation vector.
- c. Centre of enlargement.

To describe a translation fully, you need ...

- a. The centre of rotation.
- b. A translation vector.
- c. The equation of a mirror line.

Challenge C – True or False?

"Describe fully" means include all the important information about the transformation. ____

SSS, SAS, ASA and RHS are conditions used to show triangle congruence.
