

Pythagoras and Trigonometry

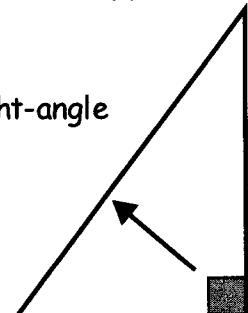
Page	Description
1	Pythagoras explained
2	Introduction to Pythagoras questions
3	More difficult Pythagoras questions
4	Pythagoras questions on a coordinate grid
5	Recap questions on Pythagoras
6	Trigonometry explained
7	Finding a missing angle
8	Mixed trigonometry questions
9	Mixed trigonometry questions
10	Mixed trigonometry questions
11	Mixed Pythagoras and trigonometry questions
12	3D questions
13	3D questions
14	3D questions
15	3D questions

PYTHAGORAS made simple

1) Is the triangle right-angled? If the answer is no, you cannot use Pythagoras.

2) Identify the "longest side". This is opposite the right angle

The longest side, opposite the right-angle



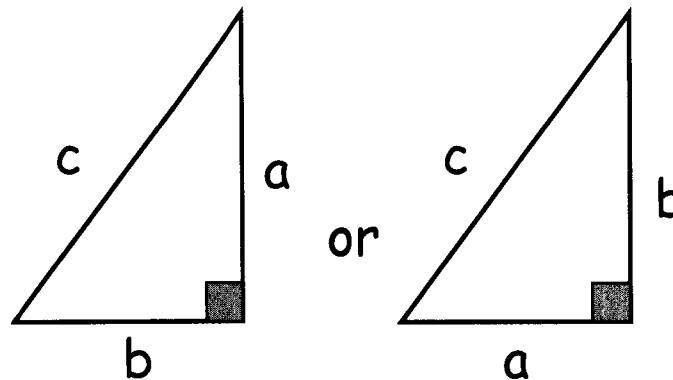
3) The rule

the longest side squared is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides

This is often written as $c^2 = a^2 + b^2$

c is the longest side.

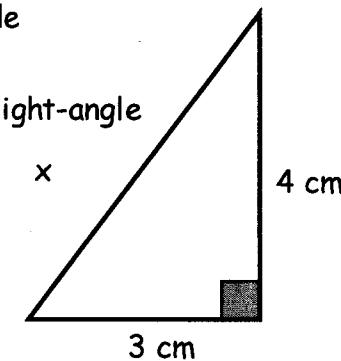
a and b are the two shorter sides. Their order does not matter



Always check your answer is sensible

4) Finding the longest side

The longest side, opposite the right-angle



$$\text{From the rule } c^2 = a^2 + b^2$$

$$x^2 = 3^2 + 4^2$$

$$x^2 = 9 + 16$$

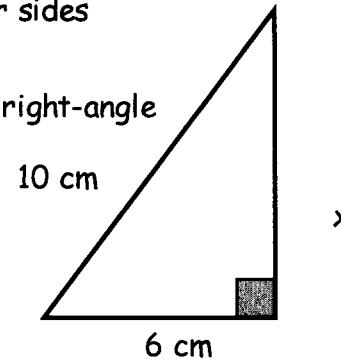
$$x^2 = 25$$

$$x = \sqrt{25} = 5 \text{ cm}$$

Check your answer is bigger than both of the shorter sides

5) Finding one of the shorter sides

The longest side, opposite the right-angle



$$\text{From the rule } c^2 = a^2 + b^2$$

$$10^2 = 6^2 + x^2$$

$$100 = 36 + x^2$$

$$x^2 = 100 - 36 = 64$$

$$x = \sqrt{64} = 8 \text{ cm}$$

Check your answer is smaller than longest side

Find the side x using Pythagoras. Give answers to 1 d.p.

1

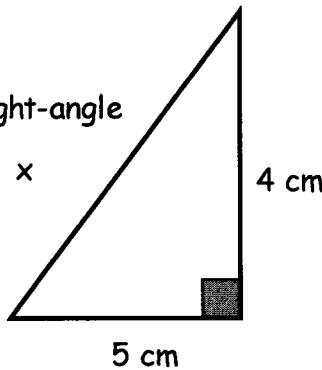
The longest side, opposite the right-angle

$$x^2 = 4^2 + 5^2$$

$$x^2 = 16 + 25$$

$$x^2 = 41$$

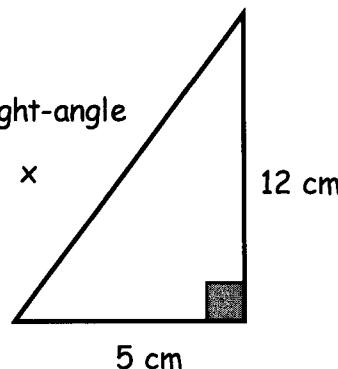
$$x = \sqrt{41} = 6.4 \text{ cm}$$



2

The longest side, opposite the right-angle

$$x = 13 \text{ cm}$$



3

The longest side, opposite the right-angle

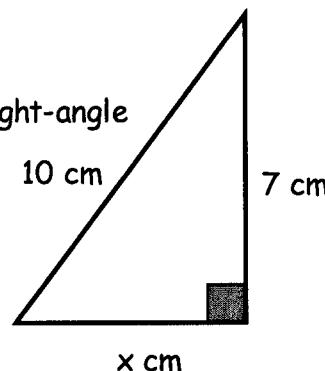
$$10^2 = x^2 + 7^2$$

$$100 = x^2 + 49$$

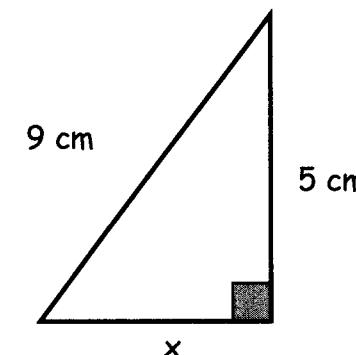
$$x^2 = 100 - 49$$

$$x^2 = 51$$

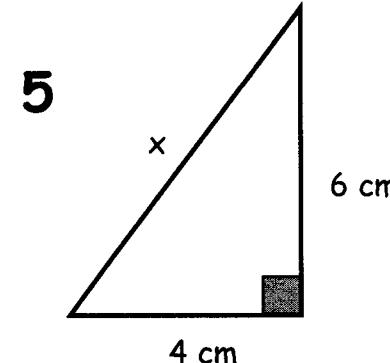
$$x = \sqrt{51} = 7.1 \text{ cm}$$



4

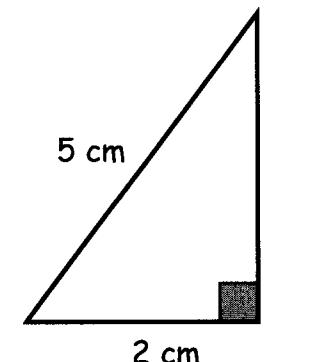


$$x = 7.5 \text{ cm}$$



$$x = 7.2 \text{ cm}$$

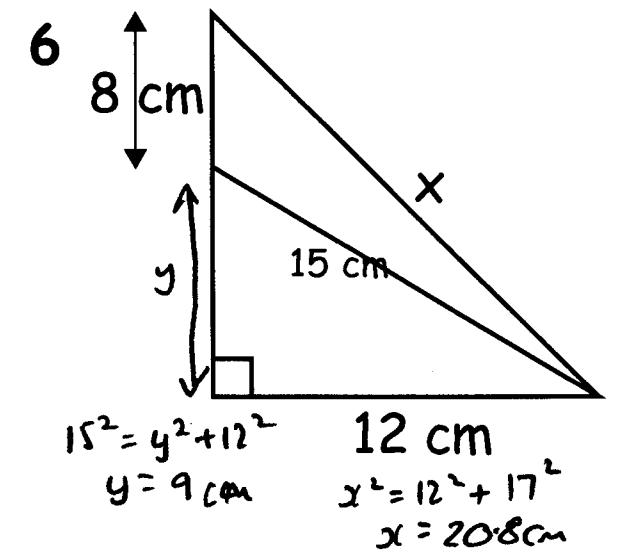
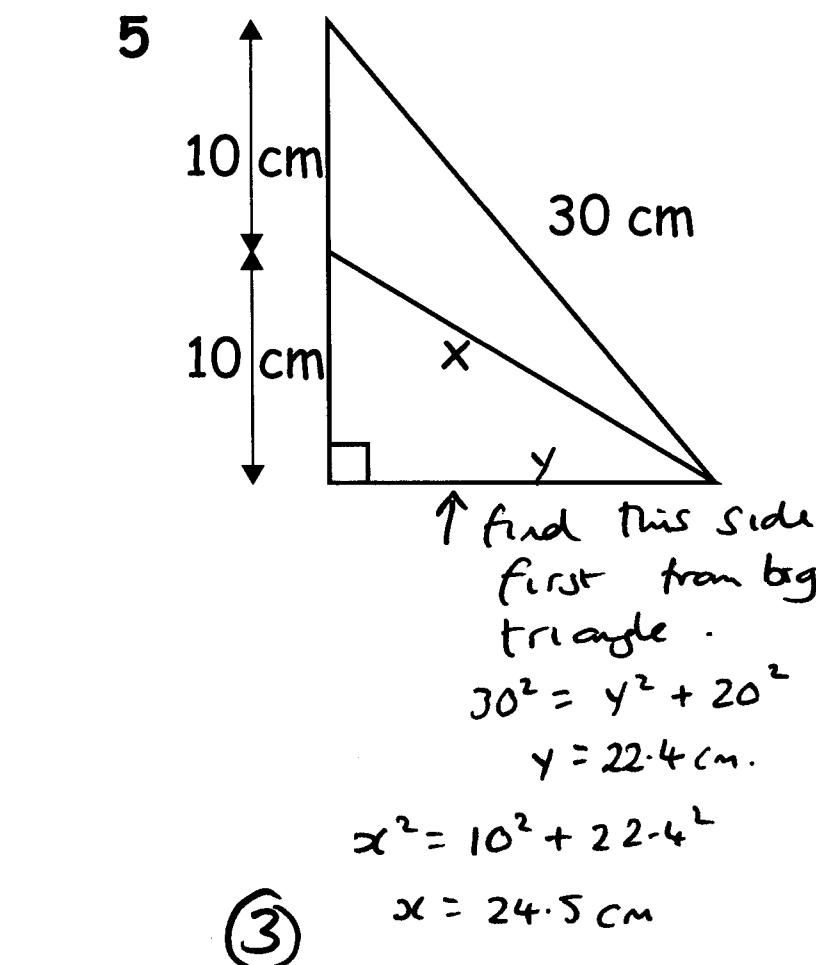
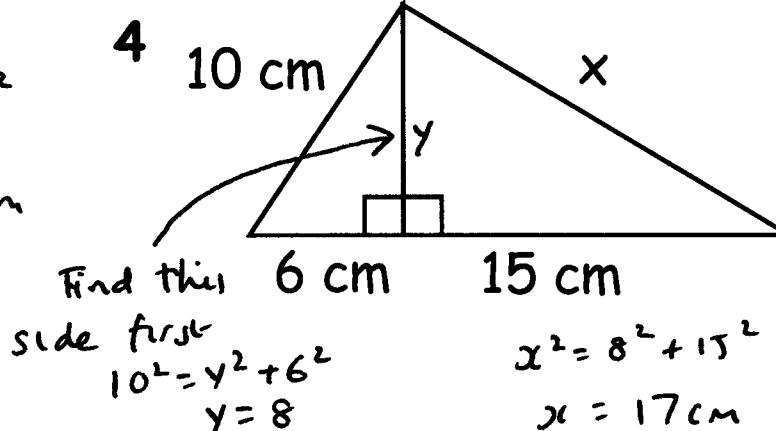
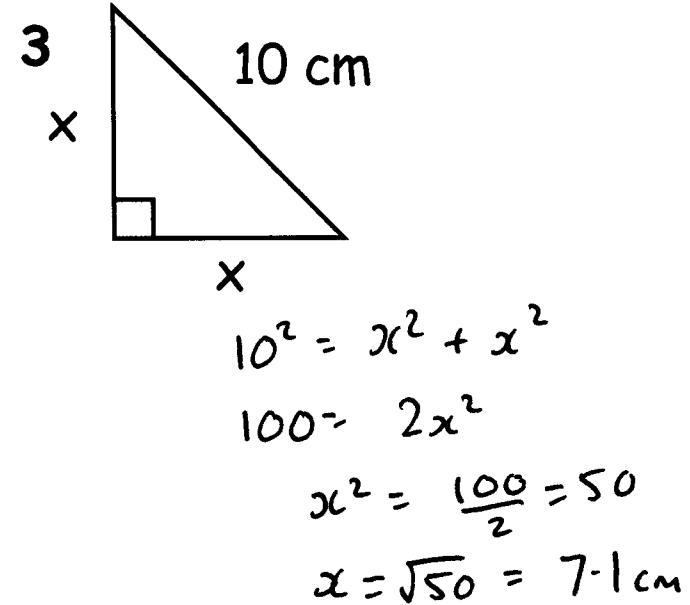
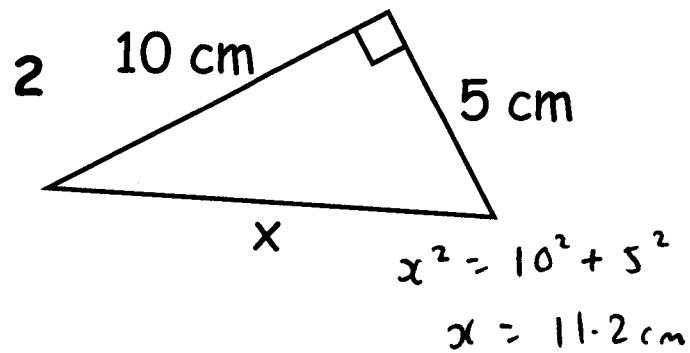
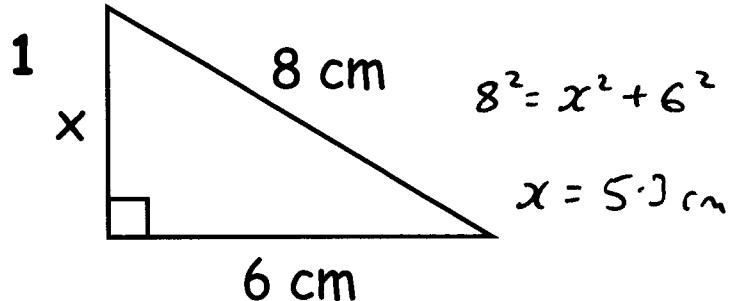
6



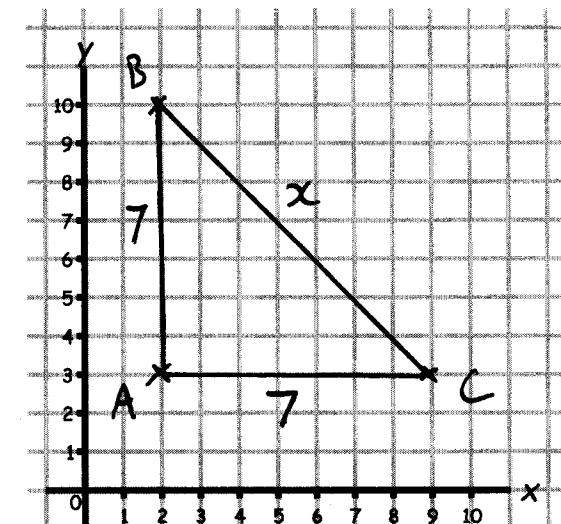
$$x = 4.6 \text{ cm}$$

②

Pythagoras. Find the missing length 'x' for each question. Show your working out

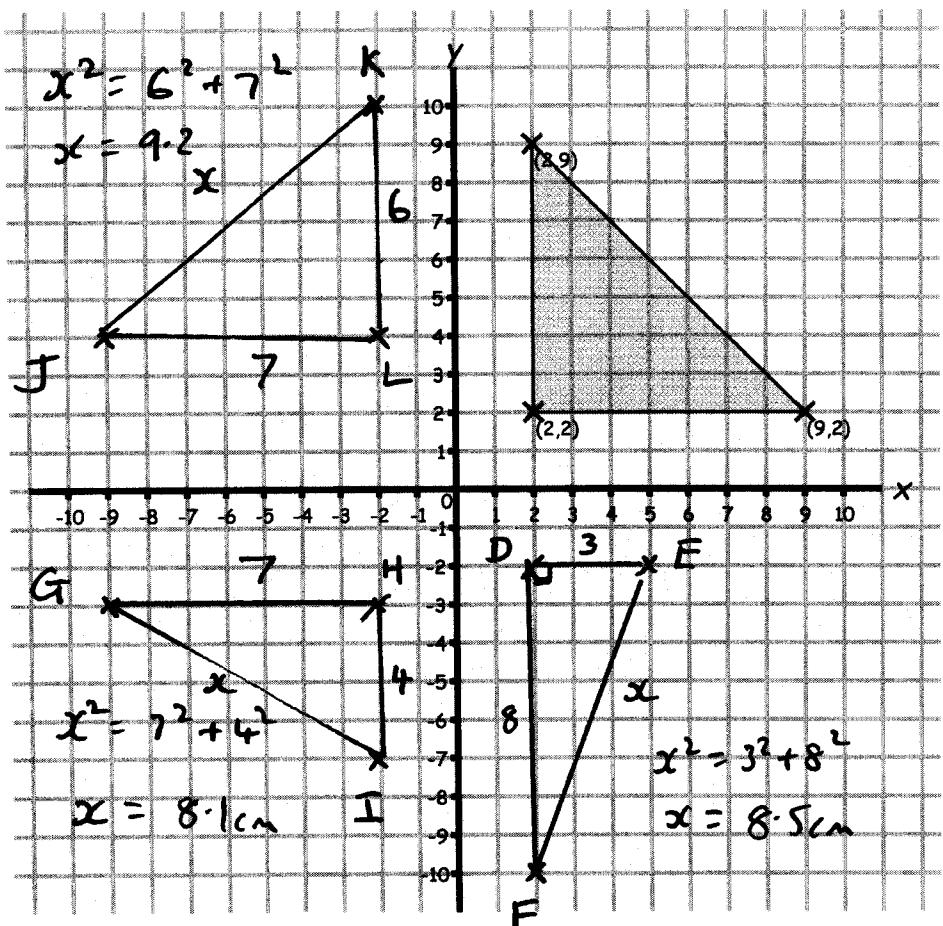


7) Plot A (2,3), B (2,10), C (9,3). length BC.



Pythagoras Questions using Coordinates

Plot the following triangles and then calculate the length of the longest side. Answers to 1 decimal place.



1) A (2,9), B(9,2) and C(2,2). Join the points to make a triangle. Find the length of AB.

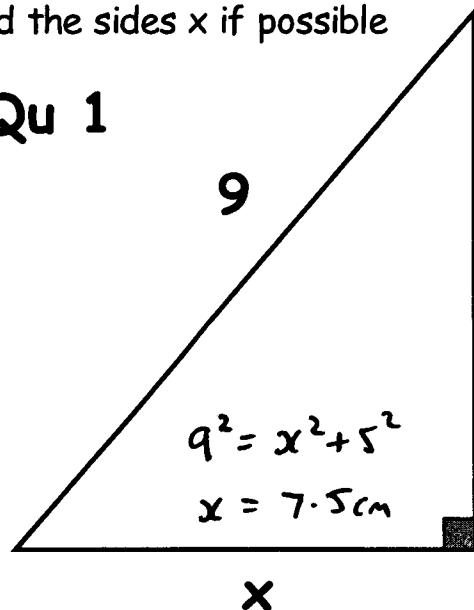
2) D (2,-2), E(5,-2) and F(2,-10). Join the points to make a triangle. Find the length of EF. 8.5 cm

3) G (-9,-3), H(-2,-3) and I(-2,-7). Join the points to make a triangle. Find the length of GI. 8.1 cm

4) J (-9,4), K(-2,10) and L(-2,4). Join the points to make a triangle. Find the length of JK. 9.2 cm

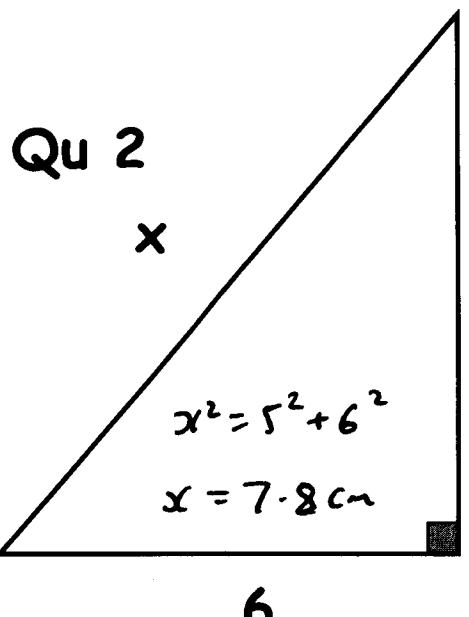
Find the sides x if possible

Qu 1



$$9^2 = x^2 + 5^2$$

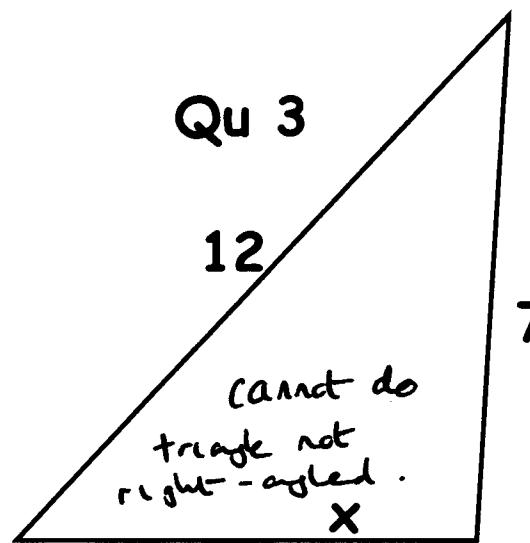
$$x = 7.5 \text{ cm}$$



$$x^2 = 5^2 + 6^2$$

$$x = 7.8 \text{ cm}$$

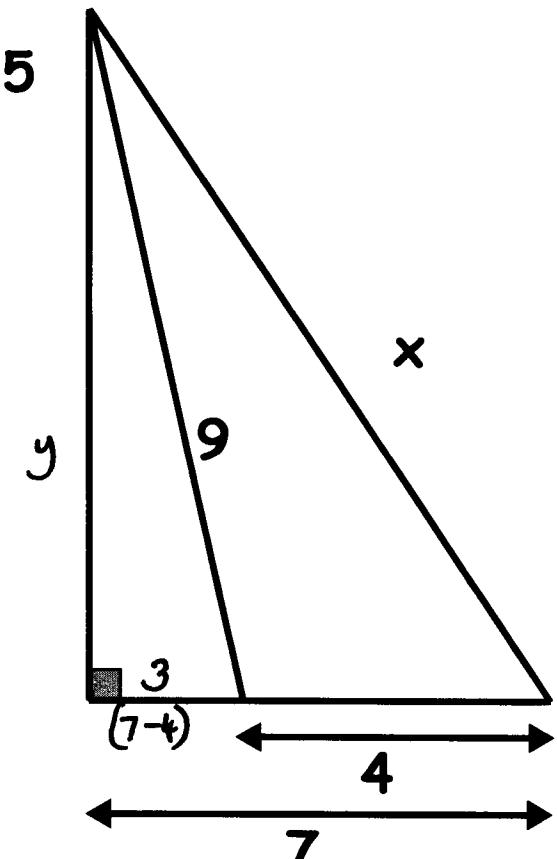
Qu 3



cannot do
triangle not
right-angled.

x

Qu 5



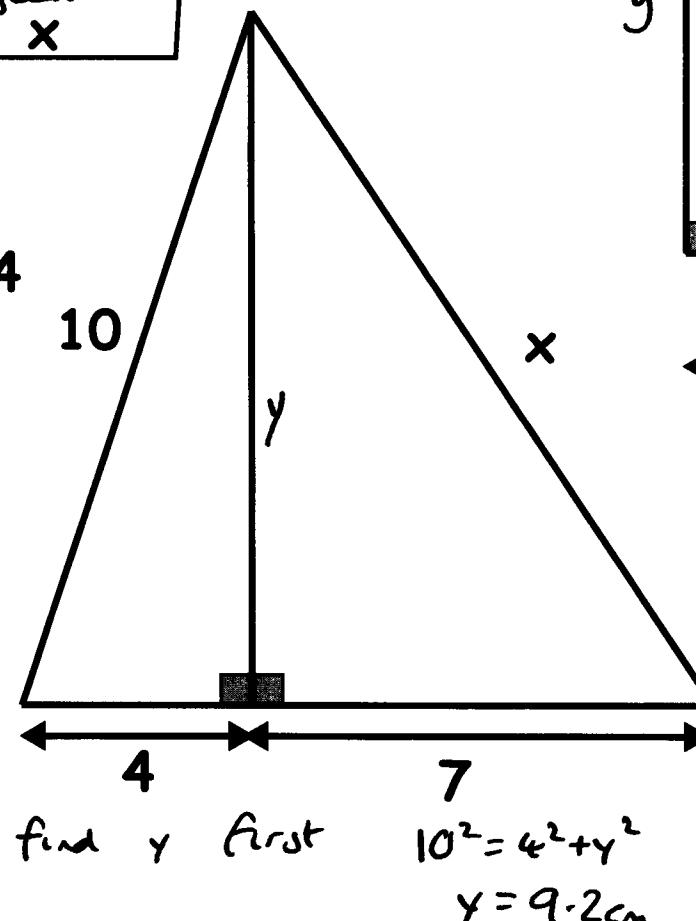
$$9^2 = y^2 + 3^2$$

$$y = 8.5 \text{ cm}$$

$$x^2 = 8.5^2 + 7^2$$

$$x = 11 \text{ cm}$$

Qu 4



find y first

$$10^2 = 4^2 + y^2$$

$$y = 9.2 \text{ cm}$$

$$x^2 = 9.2^2 + 7^2$$

$$x = 11.5 \text{ cm.}$$

⑤

Trigonometry made simple

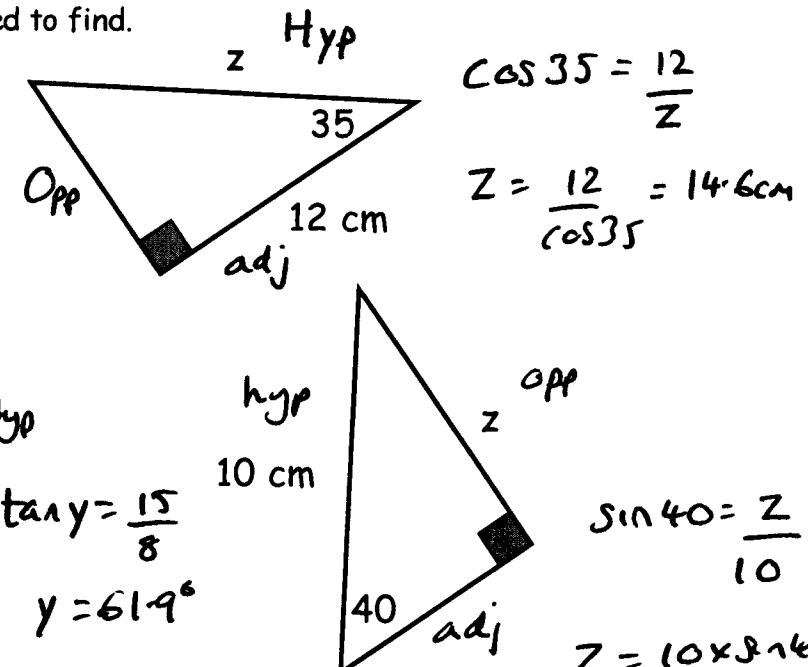
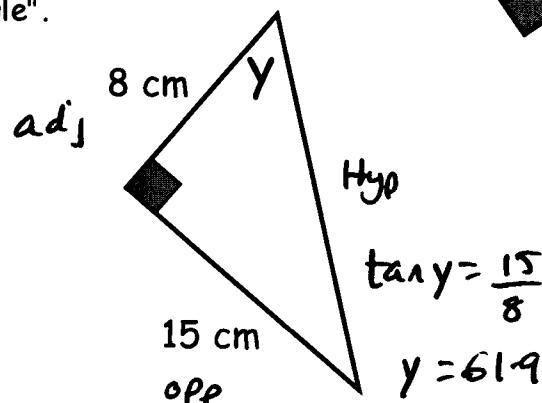
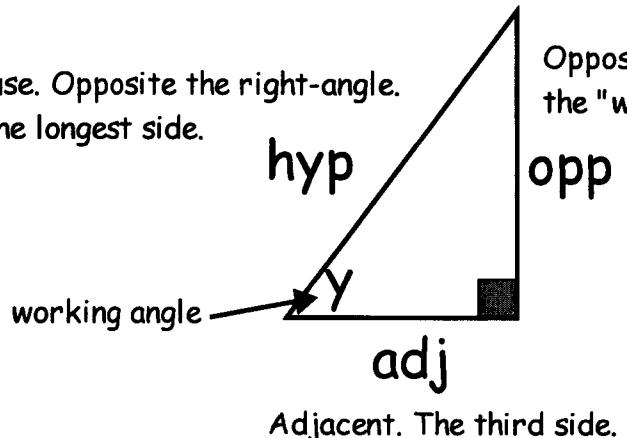
Always check your answer is sensible

1) Is the triangle right-angled? If the answer is no you cannot use Trigonometry.

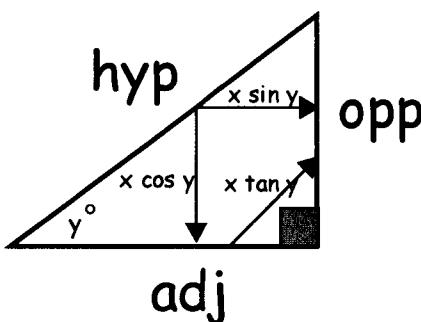
2) Identify the "working angle". This may be an angle you are given, or one that you are asked to find.

3) Label the sides in order hyp, opp, adj.

Hypotenuse. Opposite the right-angle.
Always the longest side.



4) Choose the correct ratio you need to solve the problem.



$$\sin = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}}$$

$$\text{hyp} = \frac{\text{opp}}{\sin}$$

$$\sin y = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}}$$

$$\cos = \frac{\text{adj}}{\text{hyp}}$$

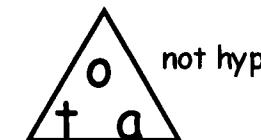
$$\text{hyp} = \frac{\text{adj}}{\cos}$$

$$\cos y = \frac{\text{adj}}{\text{hyp}}$$

$$\tan = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}}$$

$$\text{adj} = \frac{\text{opp}}{\tan}$$

$$\tan y = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}}$$



Note : if you are calculating an angle, remember to press SHIFT, before SIN, COS or TAN.

Trigonometry - Finding a missing angle

1) Is the triangle right-angled?

3) Draw and label the arrow you need

Hyp to Opp is SIN

SIN

Hyp to Adj is COS

COS

Adj to Opp is TAN

TAN

2) Label the sides.

4) Calculate the multiplier. For SIN it is Opp ÷ Hyp

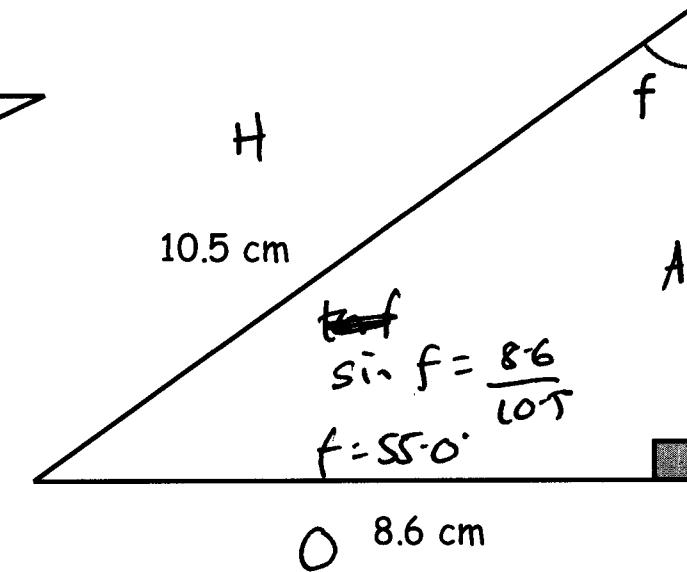
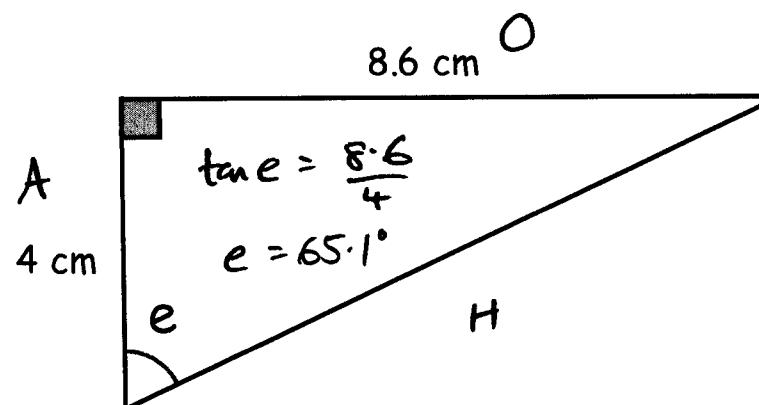
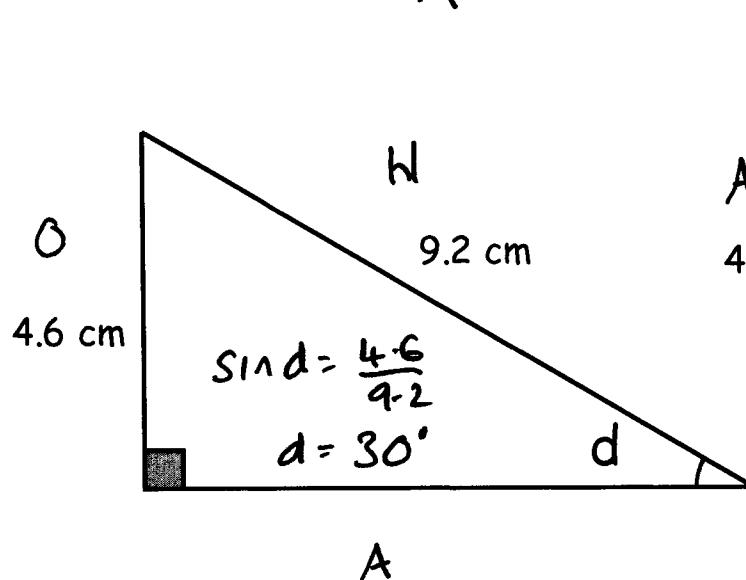
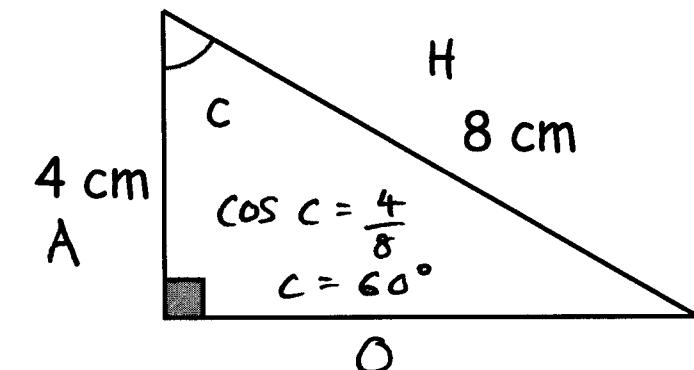
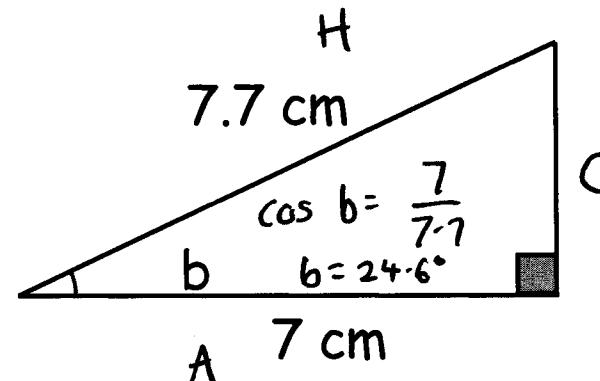
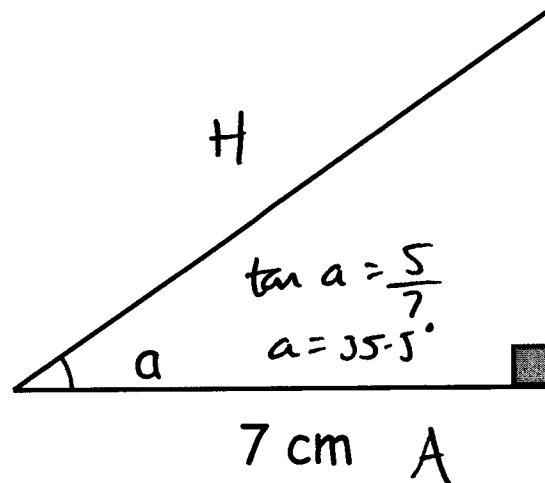
For COS it is Adj ÷ Hyp

For TAN it is Opp ÷ Adj

5) Press SHIFT COS =

TAN

To get the angle. Round to 1 d.p.

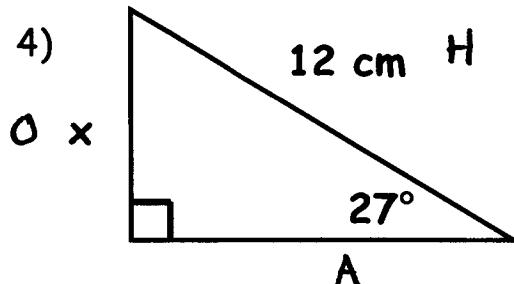


1) Work out the value of $\sin 30^\circ$ 0.5

2) Work out the value of $\cos 30^\circ$, answer to 3 d.p. 0.866

3) $\tan(x) = 0.839$. What is th of angle x ? 40°

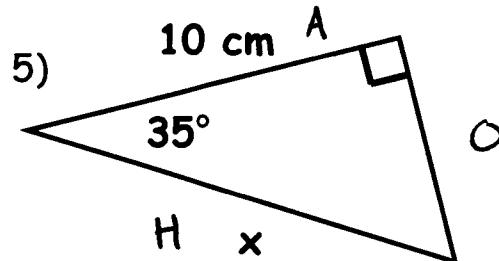
Find the value of 'x' in each of these triangles. To 1 d.p.



$$\sin 27 = \frac{x}{12}$$

$$x = 12 \times \sin 27$$

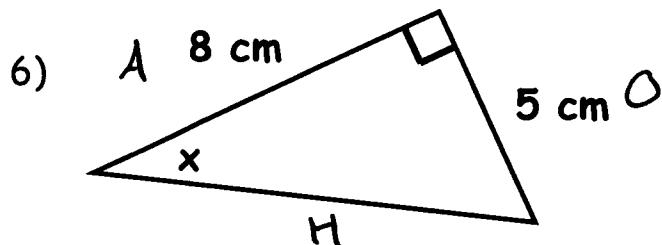
$$x = 5.4$$



$$\cos 35 = \frac{10}{x}$$

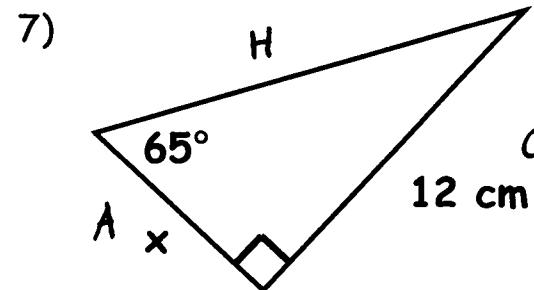
$$x = \frac{10}{\cos 35}$$

$$x = 12.2 \text{ cm}$$



$$\tan x = \frac{5}{8}$$

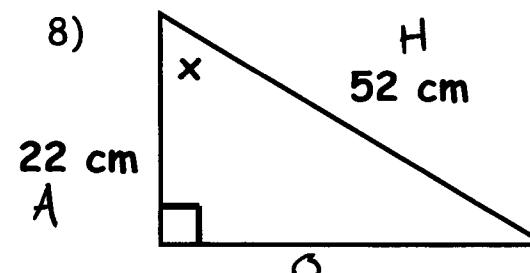
$$x = 32.0^\circ$$



$$\tan 65 = \frac{12}{x}$$

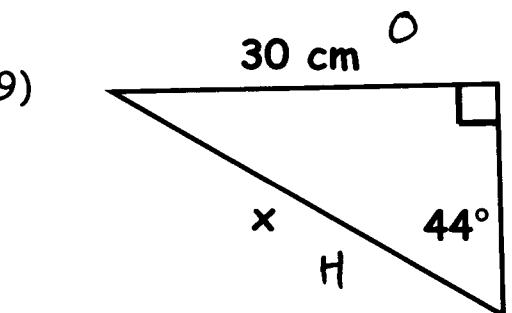
$$x = \frac{12}{\tan 65}$$

$$x = 5.6 \text{ cm}$$



$$\cos x = \frac{22}{52}$$

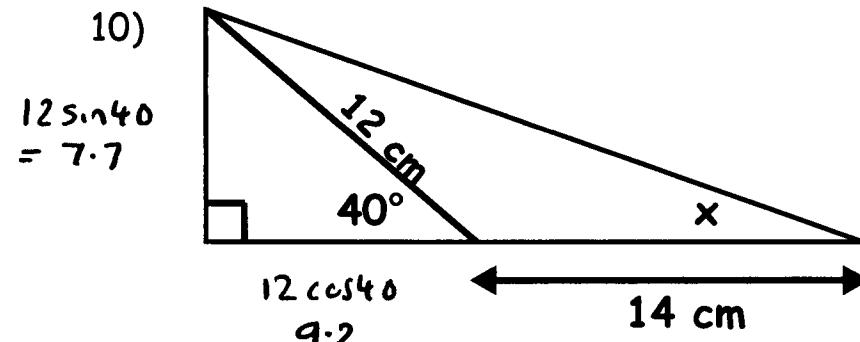
$$x = 65.0^\circ$$



$$\sin 44 = \frac{30}{x}$$

$$x = \frac{30}{\sin 44}$$

$$x = 43.2 \text{ cm}$$



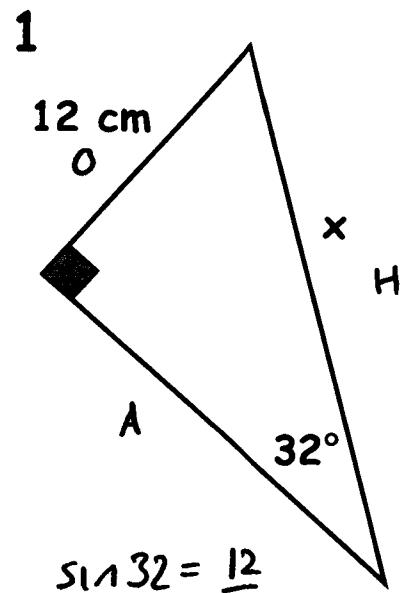
$$12 \sin 40 = 7.7$$

$$12 \cos 40$$

$$9.2$$

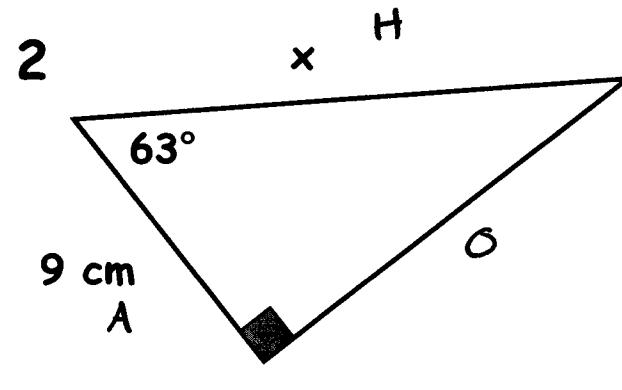
$$\tan x = \frac{7.7}{9.2 + 14} = \frac{7.7}{23.2}$$

$$x = 18.4^\circ$$



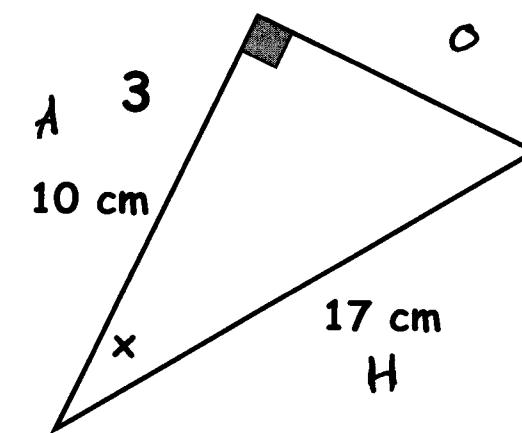
$$\sin 32 = \frac{12}{x}$$

$$x = \frac{12}{\sin 32} = 22.6 \text{ cm}$$

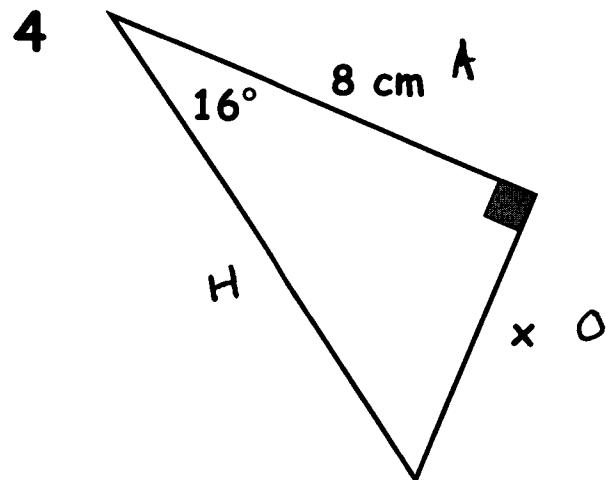


$$\cos 63 = \frac{9}{x}$$

$$x = \frac{9}{\cos 63} = 19.8 \text{ cm}$$

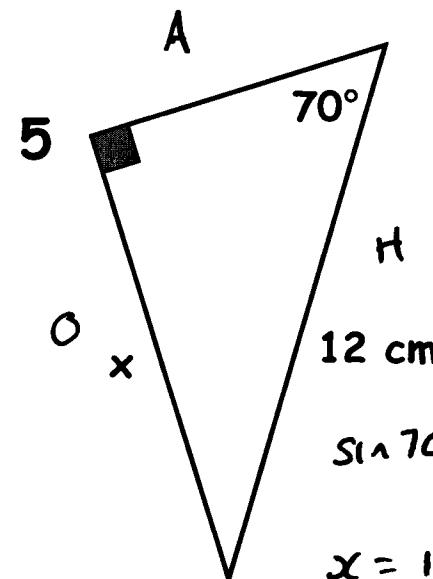


$$\cos x = \frac{10}{17} \quad x = 54.0^\circ$$



$$\tan 16 = \frac{x}{8}$$

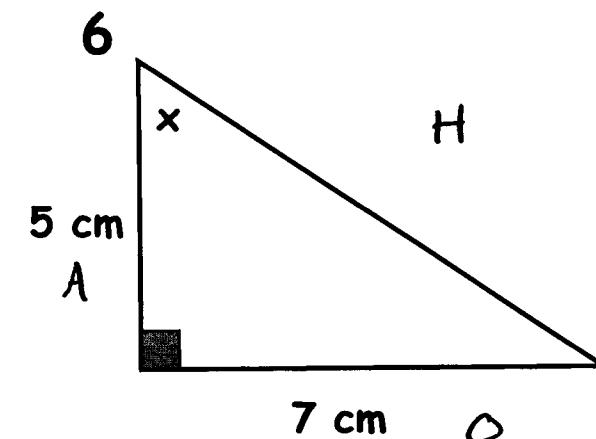
$$x = 8 \times \tan 16 = 2.3 \text{ cm}$$



$$\sin 70 = \frac{x}{12}$$

$$x = 12 \times \sin 70 = 11.3 \text{ cm}$$

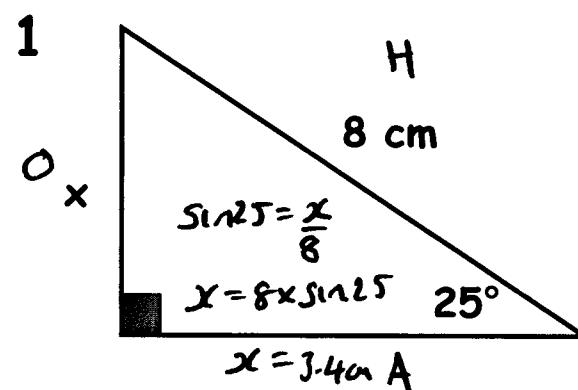
⑨



$$\tan x = \frac{7}{5}$$

$$x = 54.5^\circ$$

angle	sin	cos	tan
8°	0.139	0.990	0.141
25°	0.423	0.906	0.466
42°	0.669	0.743	0.900
45°	0.707	0.707	1
65°	0.906	0.423	2.145
85°	0.996	0.087	11.430



2

$$\cos 25 = \frac{x}{8}$$

$$x = 8 \times \cos 25$$

$$x = 7.3 \text{ cm}$$

3

$$\tan 25 = \frac{x}{8}$$

$$x = 8 \times \tan 25$$

$$x = 3.7 \text{ cm}$$

4

$$\cos x = \frac{7.25}{8}$$

$$x = 25.0^\circ$$

5

$$\sin 27 = \frac{10}{x}$$

$$x = \frac{10}{\sin 27}$$

$$x = 22.0^\circ$$

6

$$\tan 66 = \frac{12}{x}$$

$$x = \frac{12}{\tan 66} = 5.3 \text{ cm}$$

(10)

7

$$\cos 32 = \frac{x}{12}$$

$$x = 12 \times \cos 32 = 10.2 \text{ cm}$$

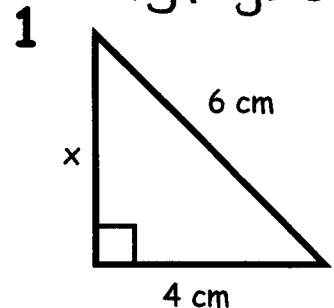
8

$$\tan x = \frac{12}{14}$$

$$x = 40.6^\circ$$

Triangles - find the value of x for each triangle.

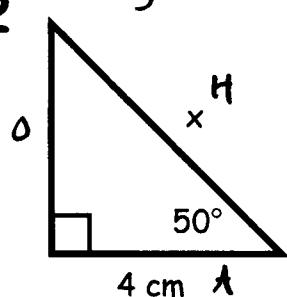
Pythagoras (P)



$$6^2 = x^2 + 4^2$$

$$x = 4.5 \text{ cm}$$

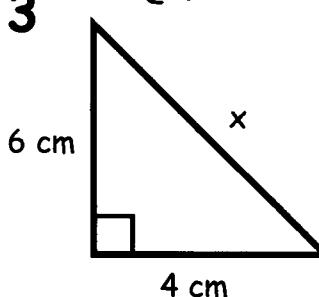
Trig (T)



$$\cos 50^\circ = \frac{4}{x}$$

$$x = \frac{4}{\cos 50^\circ} = 6.2 \text{ cm}$$

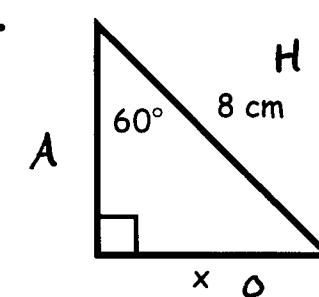
(P)



$$x^2 = 6^2 + 4^2$$

$$x = 7.2 \text{ cm}$$

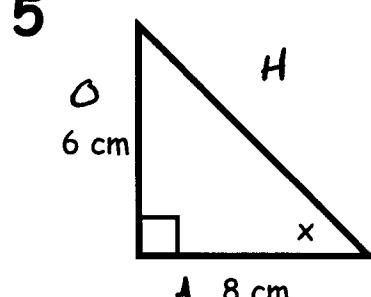
(T)



$$\sin 60^\circ = \frac{x}{8}$$

$$x = 8 \sin 60^\circ \\ x = 6.9 \text{ cm}$$

(T)

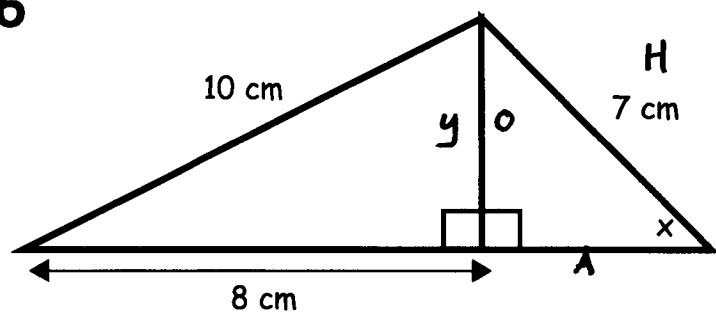


$$\tan x = 6/8$$

$$x = 36.9^\circ$$

(P and T)

6



find y first

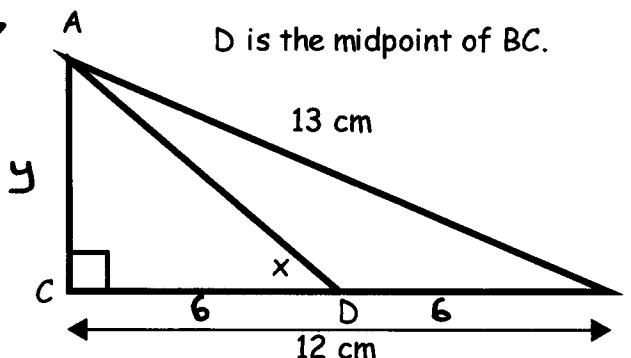
$$10^2 = y^2 + 8^2$$

$$y = 6$$

$$\sin x = \frac{6}{10}$$

$$x = 39.0^\circ$$

7



find y first

$$13^2 = y^2 + 12^2$$

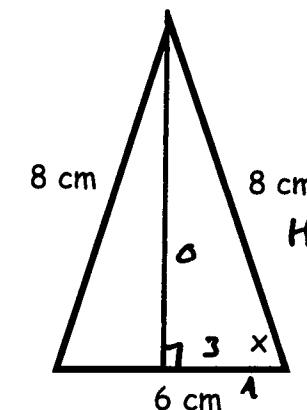
$$y = 5$$

$$\tan x = 5/12$$

$$x = 39.8^\circ$$

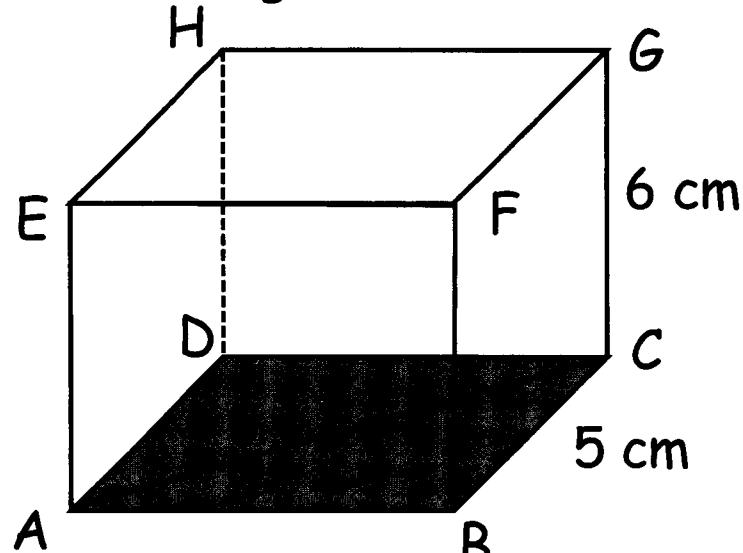
(T)

8

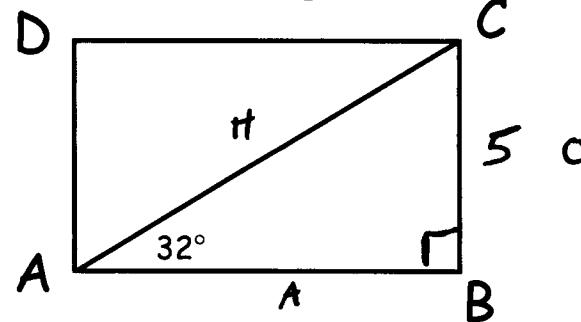


Because the triangle is isosceles, the triangle can be split exactly in half. Forming a right-angle and halving the 6 cm side.
 $\cos x = 3/8$ $x = 68.0^\circ$

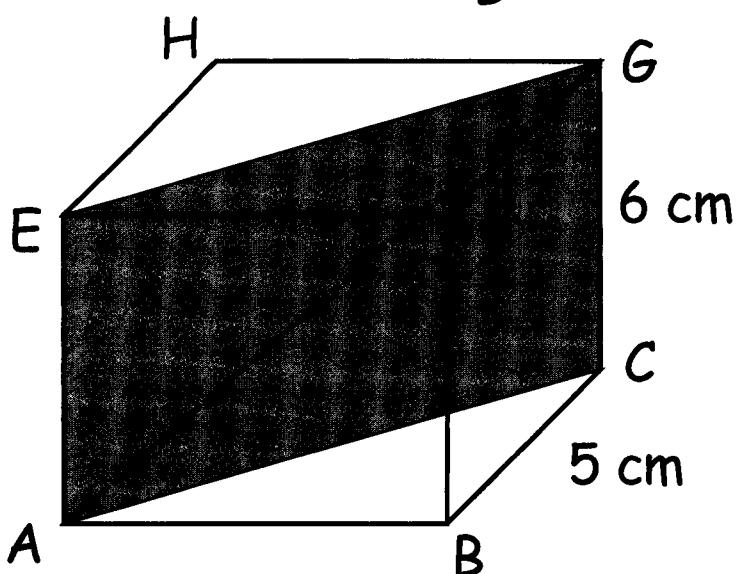
1) Find the angle GAC in this cuboid



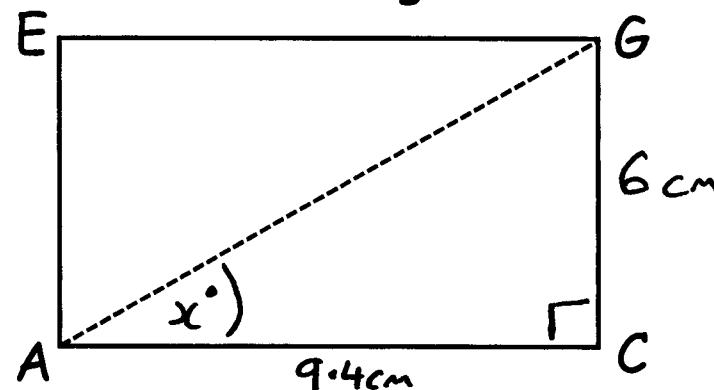
Find length AC



$$\begin{aligned}\sin 32^\circ &= \frac{5}{AC} \\ AC &= \frac{5}{\sin 32^\circ} \\ &= 9.4 \text{ cm.}\end{aligned}$$



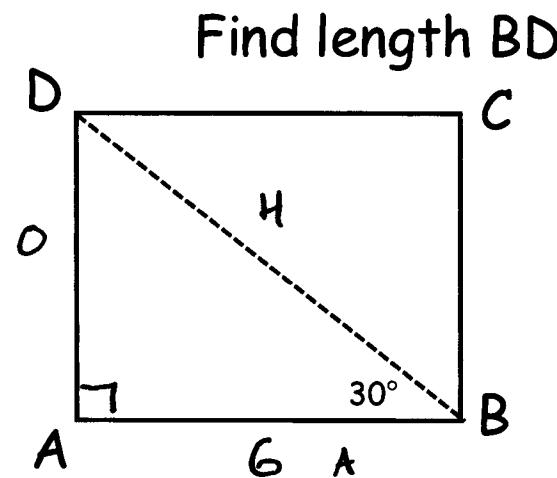
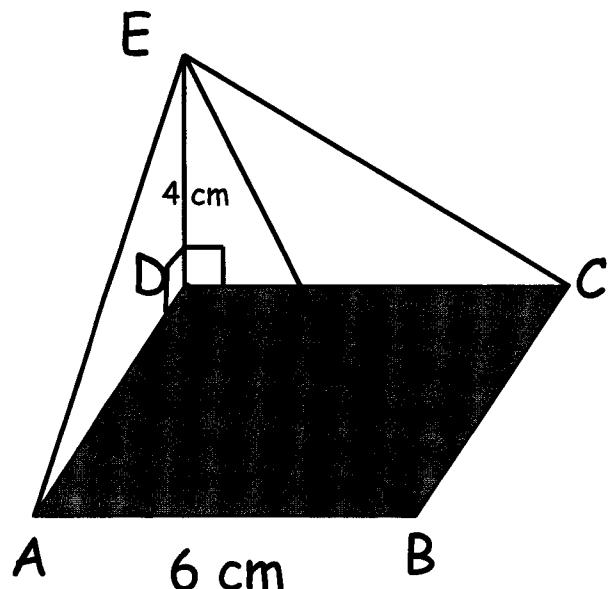
Find angle GAC



$$\tan x = \frac{6}{9.4}$$

$$x = 32.6^\circ$$

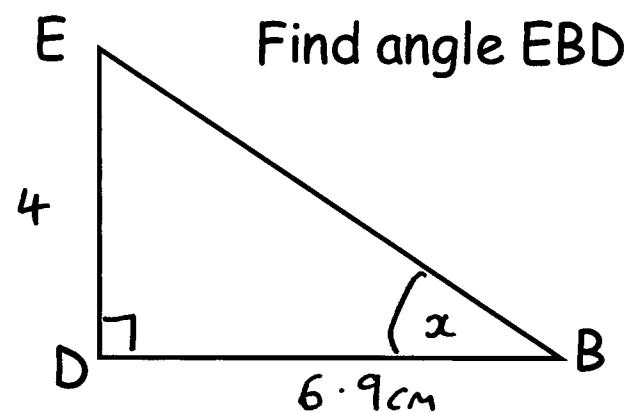
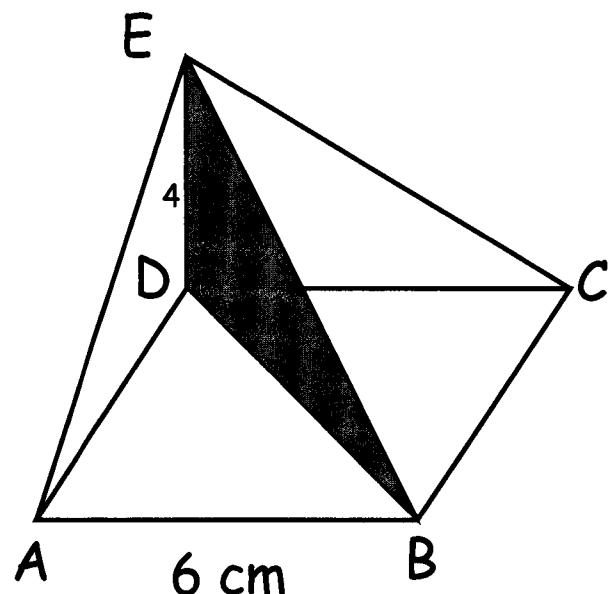
2) Find angle EBD in this shape.



$$\cos 30 = \frac{6}{BD}$$

$$BD = \frac{6}{\cos 30}$$

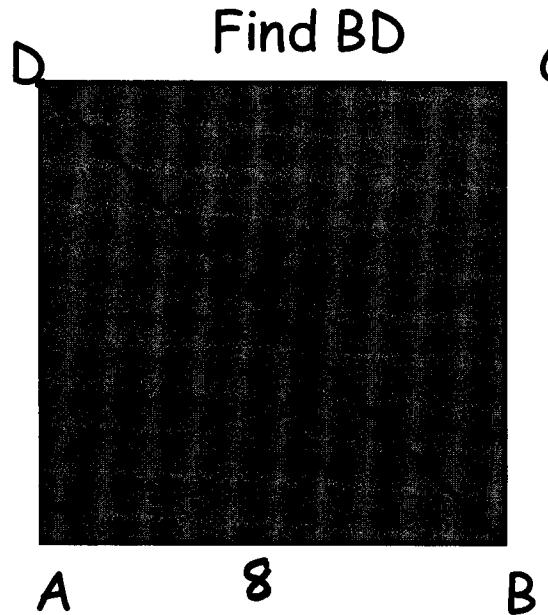
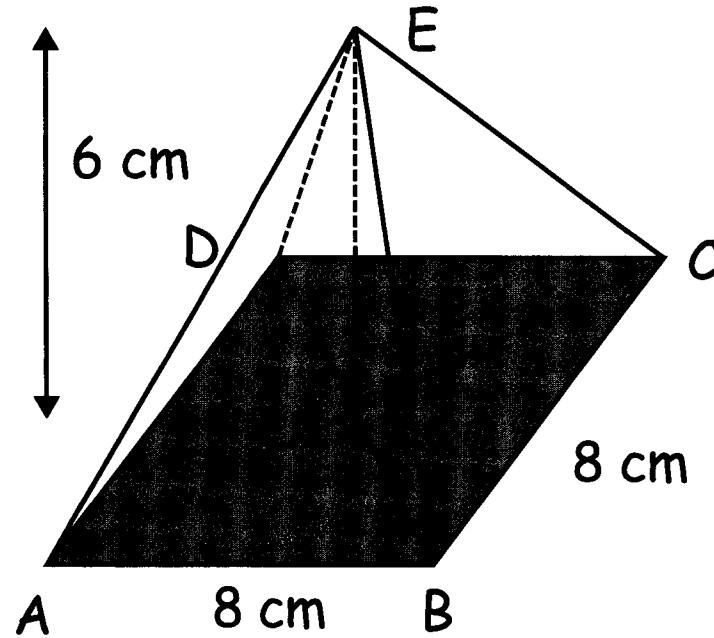
$$BD = 6.9 \text{ cm.}$$



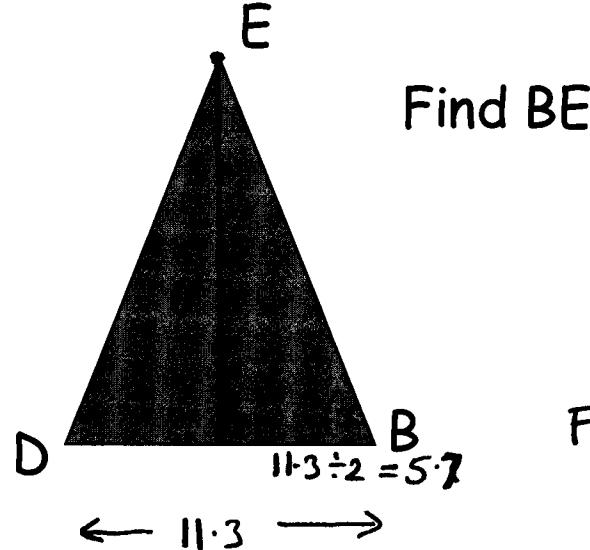
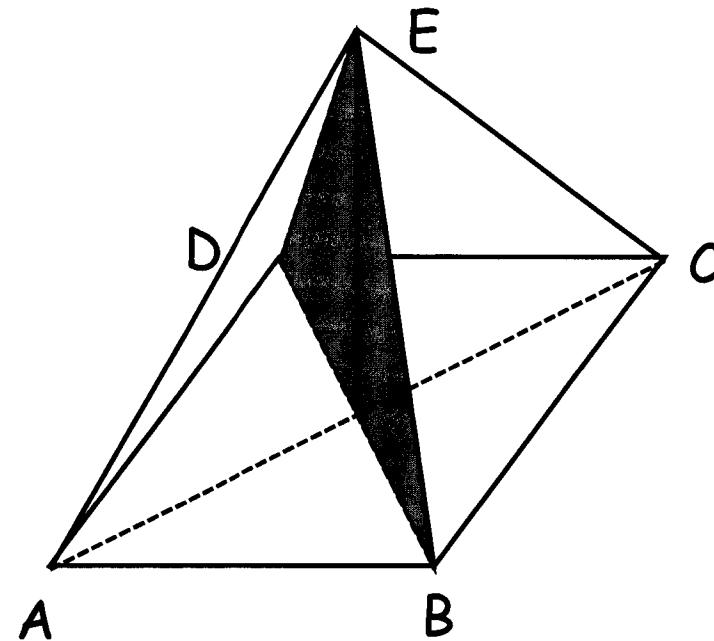
$$\tan x = \frac{4}{6.9}$$

$$x = 30.1^\circ$$

3) Find length BE in this square based pyramid



$$\begin{aligned} BD^2 &= 8^2 + 6^2 \\ &= 64 + 64 \\ &= 128 \\ BD &= \sqrt{128} \\ &= 11.3 \end{aligned}$$



$$BE^2 = 6^2 + 5.7^2$$

$$BE = 8.3 \text{ cm}$$

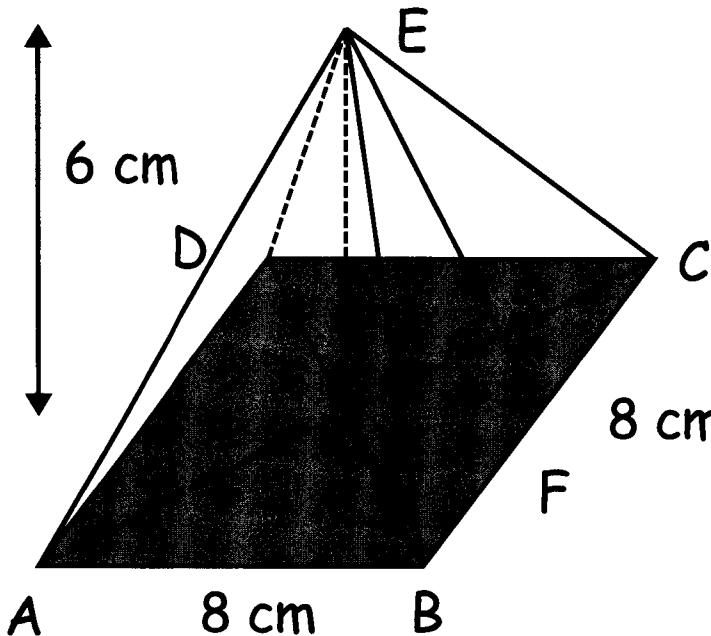
Find angle DBE

$$\tan x = \frac{6}{5.7}$$

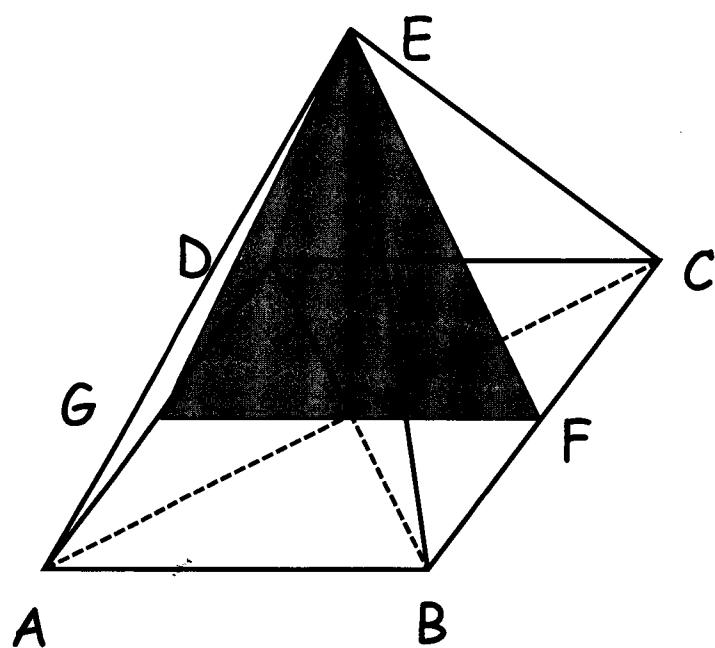
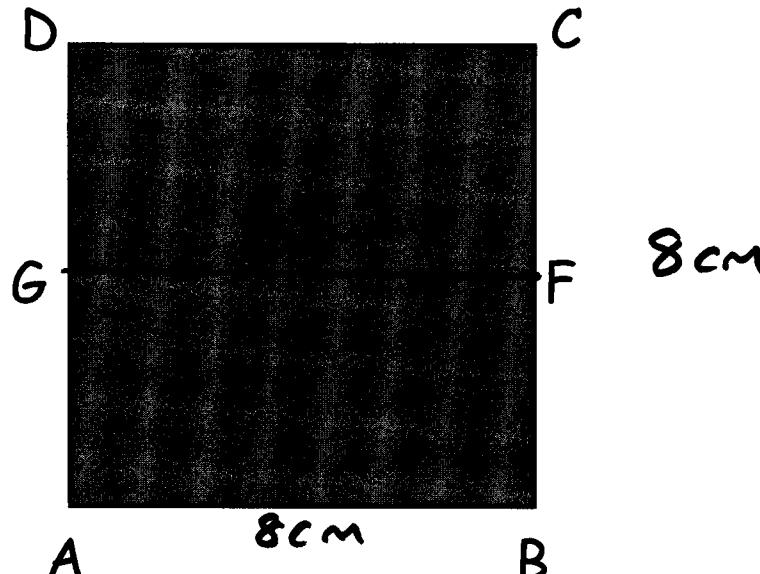
$$x = 46.5^\circ$$

$$\angle DBE = 46.5^\circ$$

4) Find length EF in this square based pyramid. F is the midpoint of the side BC.



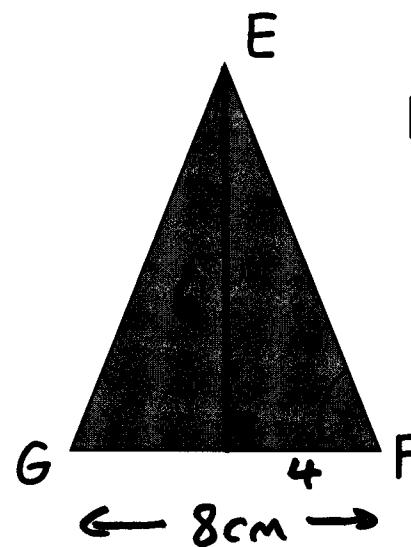
Find FG. G is the midpoint of AD.



Find EF

$$EF^2 = 4^2 + 6^2$$

$$EF = 7.2 \text{ cm}$$



Find angle EFG

$$\tan x = \frac{6}{4}$$

$$x = 56.3^\circ$$

$$EFG = 56.3^\circ$$