

## Pythagorean Theorem & Special Right Triangles

### Reducing Radicals (Square Roots) to *Simplest Radical Form*

A square root is in *Simplest Radical Form* when:

1. All perfect squares have been removed from the radical.
2. All fractions have been removed from the radical.
3. No radicals remain in the denominator of a fraction.

1. Write each in simplest radical form:

a.  $\sqrt{36}$   
 $= 6$

b.  $\sqrt{72}$   
 $= \sqrt{36 \cdot 2}$   
↑  
perfect square.  
 $= 6\sqrt{2}$

c.  $5\sqrt{108}$   
 $= 5\sqrt{36 \cdot 3}$   
 $= 5 \cdot 6\sqrt{3}$   
 $= 30\sqrt{3}$

d.  $\frac{2}{3}\sqrt{27}$   
 $= \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{9 \cdot 3}$   
 $= \frac{2}{3}(\cancel{3})\sqrt{3}$   
 $= 2\sqrt{3}$

e.  $(3\sqrt{5})(2\sqrt{6})$   
 $= (3 \cdot 2)(\sqrt{5} \cdot \sqrt{6})$   
 $= 6\sqrt{30}$   
↑  
no perfect squares go into 30.

f.  $(5\sqrt{7})^2$   
 $= (5\sqrt{7})(5\sqrt{7})$   
 $= (5 \cdot 5)(\sqrt{7} \cdot \sqrt{7})$   
 $= 25\sqrt{49}$   
↑  
perfect square.  
 $= 25 \cdot 7$   
 $= 175$

g.  $\frac{\sqrt{80}}{\sqrt{125}}$   
 $= \frac{\sqrt{16 \cdot 5}}{\sqrt{25 \cdot 5}}$   
 $= \frac{4\sqrt{5}}{5\sqrt{5}}$   
 $= \frac{4}{5}$

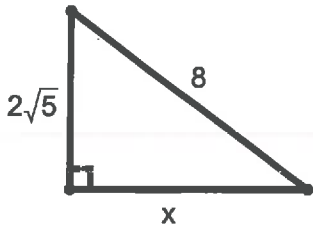
h.  $\frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{5}}$   
 $= \frac{2\sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{25}}$   
 $= \frac{2\sqrt{5}}{5}$

i.  $\sqrt{\frac{2}{27}}$   
 $= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{9 \cdot 3}}$   
 $= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}}$   
 $= \frac{\sqrt{6}}{3 \cdot 3}$   
 $= \frac{\sqrt{6}}{9}$

Pythagorean Theorem:  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$

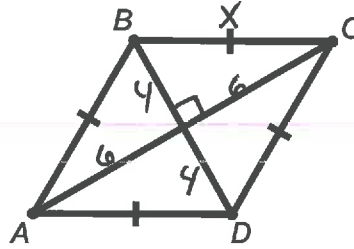
2. Solve for x in each.

a.



$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + (2\sqrt{5})^2 &= 8^2 \\ x^2 + (4 \cdot 5) &= 64 \\ x^2 + 20 &= 64 \\ x^2 &= 44 \\ x &= \sqrt{44} \\ &= 4\sqrt{11} \end{aligned}$$

b. Rhombus ABCD.  $BD=8$ ,  $AC=12$ .  $BC=x$ .



$$\begin{aligned} 4^2 + 6^2 &= x^2 \\ 16 + 36 &= x^2 \\ 52 &= x^2 \\ x &= \sqrt{52} \\ &= \sqrt{4 \cdot 13} \\ &= 2\sqrt{13} \end{aligned}$$

Pythagorean Theorem Converse:

Acute Triangle

$$a^2 + b^2 > c^2$$

Right Triangle

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

Obtuse Triangle

$$a^2 + b^2 < c^2$$

3. Determine if the triangle is Right, Acute, or Obtuse.

a.  $\{6, 14, 18\}$

$$\begin{aligned} 6^2 + 14^2 &= 18^2 \\ = 36 + 196 &= 324 \\ = 232 \end{aligned}$$

$a^2 + b^2 < c^2$   
Obtuse  $\Delta$ .

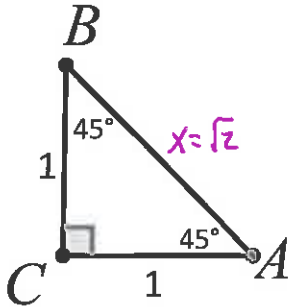
b.  $\{6, \sqrt{8}, 2\sqrt{11}\}$

$$\begin{aligned} 6^2 + (\sqrt{8})^2 &= (2\sqrt{11})^2 \\ = 36 + 8 &= 4 \cdot 11 \\ = 44 &= 44 \end{aligned}$$

$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$   
Right  $\Delta$ .

# Special Right Triangles

## 45-45-90 Triangle (Half of a Square)



4. Right  $\triangle ABC$  is called a **45-45-90 triangle** because of the measures of its three angles.  $\triangle ABC$  is half of a square.

a. Suppose the legs of  $\triangle ABC$  are each 1 unit in length. Find the length of the hypotenuse.

$$1^2 + 1^2 = x^2$$

$$2 = x^2$$

$$x = \sqrt{2}$$

hypotenuse  $AB = \sqrt{2}$

b. If  $\triangle ABC$  is dilated around center  $A$ , then  $\triangle AB'C'$  is also a 45-45-90 triangle and  $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle AB'C'$ . Why?

Dilation preserves  $\angle$  measure so, the  $\Delta$ 's are  $\sim$  by AA similarity.

c. Suppose  $AC' = 5$ . Using the fact that the triangles are similar, find the lengths of the second leg and the hypotenuse of  $\triangle AB'C'$ . Show how you arrived at your answers.

$x =$  second leg

$$\frac{AC}{AC'} = \frac{BC}{B'C'}$$

$$\frac{1}{5} = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$x = 5$$

Since the  $\Delta$ 's are  $\sim$  we can set up proportions.  
(Small  $\Delta$ 's = Small  $\Delta$ 's)

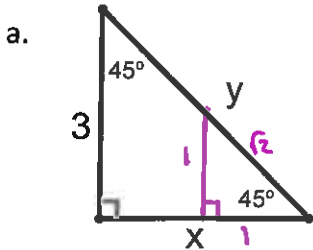
$y =$  hypotenuse

$$\frac{AB}{AB'} = \frac{AC}{AC'}$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{y} = \frac{1}{5}$$

$$y = 5\sqrt{2}$$

5. Find  $x$  and  $y$  in simplest radical form.

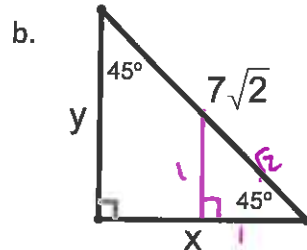


$$\frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$3 = x$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{y} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$3\sqrt{2} = y$$



$$\frac{1}{x} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{7\sqrt{2}}$$

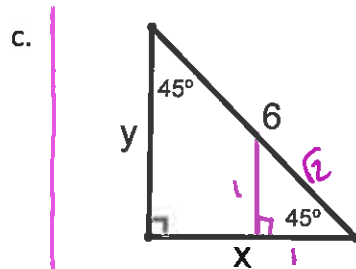
$$7\sqrt{2} = \sqrt{2}x$$

$$7 = x$$

$$\frac{1}{y} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{7\sqrt{2}}$$

$$7\sqrt{2} = y\sqrt{2}$$

$$y = 7$$



$$\frac{1}{x} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{6}$$

$$6 = x\sqrt{2}$$

$$x = \frac{6}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$x = \frac{6\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$x = 3\sqrt{2}$$

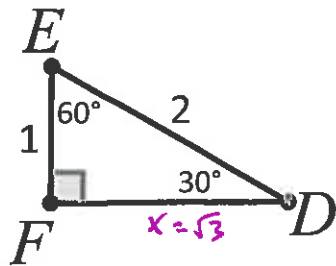
$$\frac{1}{y} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{6}$$

$$6 = y\sqrt{2}$$

$$y = \frac{6}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$y = 3\sqrt{2}$$

### 30-60-90 Triangle (Half of an Equilateral Triangle)



6. Right  $\triangle DEF$  is called a **30-60-90 triangle** because of the measures of its three angles.  $\triangle DEF$  is half of an equilateral triangle.

a. Suppose the hypotenuse of  $\triangle DEF$  is 2 units in length and the shorter leg is 1 unit (why?). Find the length of the longer leg.

$$\begin{aligned} 1^2 + x^2 &= 2^2 \\ 1 + x^2 &= 4 \\ x^2 &= 3 \\ x &= \sqrt{3} \end{aligned}$$

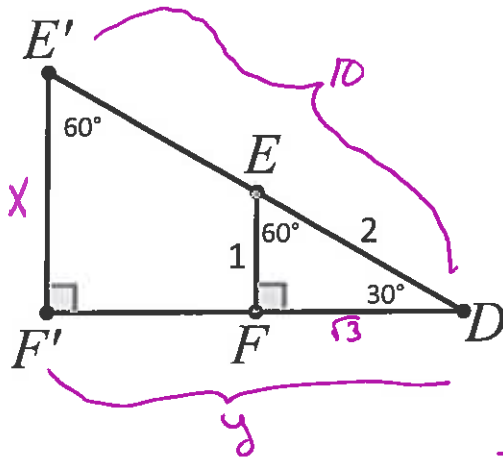
longer leg  $DF = \sqrt{3}$

b. If  $\triangle DEF$  is dilated around center  $D$ , then  $\triangle DE'F'$  is also a 30-60-90 triangle and  $\triangle DEF \sim \triangle DE'F'$ . Why?

Dilation preserves  $\angle$  measure

So the  $\Delta$ 's are  $\sim$  by AA-Sim.

c. Suppose  $DE' = 10$ . Using the fact that the triangles are similar, find the lengths of the legs of  $\triangle DE'F'$ . Show how you arrived at your answers.



$x =$  short leg  $\overline{E'F'}$

$$\frac{1}{x} = \frac{2}{10}$$

$$2x = 10$$

$$\boxed{x = 5}$$

Since  $\Delta$ 's are  $\sim$   
we use a proportion.

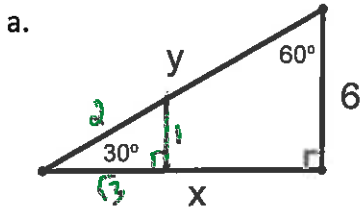
$y =$  long leg  $\overline{DF'}$

$$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{y} = \frac{2}{10}$$

$$10\sqrt{3} = 2y$$

$$\boxed{y = 5\sqrt{3}}$$

7. Find  $x$  and  $y$ , in simplest radical form.

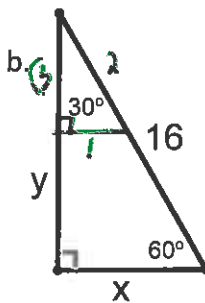


$$\frac{1}{6} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{x}$$

$$\boxed{x = 6\sqrt{3}}$$

$$\frac{1}{6} = \frac{2}{y}$$

$$\boxed{12 = y}$$



$$\frac{1}{x} = \frac{2}{16}$$

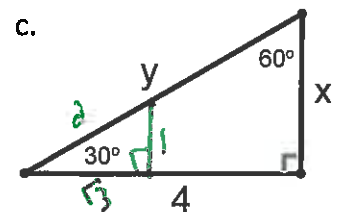
$$2x = 16$$

$$\boxed{x = 8}$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{y} = \frac{2}{16}$$

$$16\sqrt{3} = 2y$$

$$\boxed{y = 8\sqrt{3}}$$



$$\frac{1}{x} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}$$

$$4 = x\sqrt{3}$$

$$x = \frac{4}{\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}}$$

$$\boxed{x = \frac{4\sqrt{3}}{3}}$$

$$\frac{2}{y} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}$$

$$8 = y\sqrt{3}$$

$$y = \frac{8}{\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}}$$

$$\boxed{y = \frac{8\sqrt{3}}{3}}$$