

Practice with Examples

For use with pages 567–572

GOAL Solve a right triangle**VOCABULARY**

To solve a right triangle means to determine the measures of all six parts.

EXAMPLE 1 Solving a Right Triangle

Solve the right triangle.

SOLUTION

Begin by using the Pythagorean Theorem to find the length of the missing side.

$$(\text{hypotenuse})^2 = (\text{leg})^2 + (\text{leg})^2$$

$$13^2 = a^2 + 5^2$$

$$169 = a^2 + 25$$

$$144 = a^2$$

$$12 = a$$

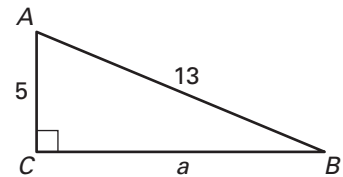
Pythagorean Theorem

Substitute.

Multiply.

Subtract 25 from each side.

Find the positive square root.

Then find the measure of $\angle B$.

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

$$\tan B = \frac{5}{12} \quad \text{Substitute.}$$

$$m\angle B \approx 22.6^\circ \quad \text{Use a calculator.}$$

Finally, because $\angle A$ and $\angle B$ are complements, you can write

$$m\angle A = 90^\circ - m\angle B \approx 90^\circ - 22.6^\circ = 67.4^\circ.$$

The side lengths of $\triangle ABC$ are 5, 12, and 13. $\triangle ABC$ has one right angle and two acute angles whose measures are about 22.6° and 67.4° .

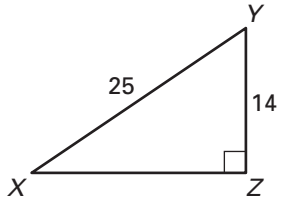
Practice with Examples

For use with pages 567–572

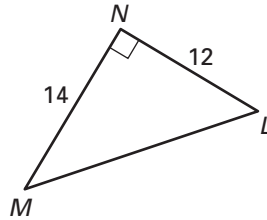
Exercises for Example 1

Solve the right triangle.

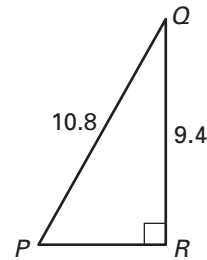
1.



2.



3.

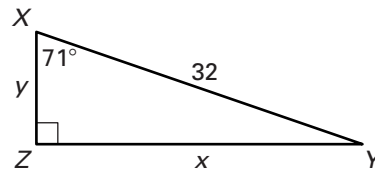


EXAMPLE 2 Solving a Right Triangle

Solve the right triangle.

SOLUTION

Use trigonometric ratios to find the values of x and y .



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

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

$$\sin 71^\circ = \frac{x}{32}$$

$$\cos 71^\circ = \frac{y}{32}$$

$$32 \sin 71^\circ = x$$

$$32 \cos 71^\circ = y$$

$$32(0.9455) = x$$

$$32(0.3256) = y$$

$$30.3 \approx x$$

$$10.4 \approx y$$

Because $\angle X$ and $\angle Y$ are complements, you can write

$$m\angle Y = 90^\circ - m\angle X = 90^\circ - 71^\circ = 19^\circ.$$

The side lengths of the triangle are about 10.4, 30.3, and 32. The triangle has one right angle and two acute angles whose measures are 71° and 19° .

Practice with Examples

For use with pages 567–572

Exercises for Example 2

Solve the right triangle.

