Est. 1841 YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

Student Life

Library and Learning Services



Example

Make *A* the subject of the equation:

$$a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc\cos(A)$$

Answer

We begin by adding 2bc cos(A) to both sides:

$$a^{2} + 2bc \cos(A) = b^{2} + c^{2} - 2bc \cos(A) + 2bc \cos(A)$$

and then simplify:

$$a^2 + 2bc\cos(A) = b^2 + c^2$$

We then minus a^2 from both sides and simplify:

$$2bc\cos(A) = b^2 + c^2 - a^2$$

We then divide both sides by 2bc:

$$\frac{2bc\cos(A)}{2bc} = \frac{b^2 + c^2 - a^2}{2bc}$$

and then simplify:

$$\cos(A) = \frac{b^2 + c^2 - a^2}{2bc}$$

We then take cos^{-1} of both sides:

$$cos^{-1}(cos(A)) = cos^{-1}\left(\frac{b^2 + c^2 - a^2}{2bc}\right)$$

and then simplify:

$$A = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{b^2 + c^2 - a^2}{2bc}\right)$$

Student Life

Library and Learning Services



Questions

- 1. Make distance the subject of the equation: speed = $\frac{\text{distance}}{\text{time}}$
- 2. Make *H* the subject of the equation: $sin(\theta) = \frac{O}{H}$
- 3. Make *v* the subject of the equation: $E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$
- 4. Make *u* the subject of the equation: $v^2 u^2 = 2as$
- 5. Make *A* the subject of the equation: $\frac{a}{sin(A)} = \frac{b}{sin(B)}$
- 6. Make *y* the subject of the equation: $xy 2y = \alpha$
- 7. Make *t* the subject of the equation: $N = Me^{kt}$

Student Life

Library and Learning Services



Answers

1. Multiply both sides by time:

speed × time = $\frac{\text{distance} \times \text{time}}{\text{time}}$

then simplify: speed × time = distance

2. Multiply both sides by *H*:

 $H \times sin(\theta) = 0$

Divide both sides by $sin(\theta)$:

$$H = \frac{O}{\sin(\theta)}$$

3. Multiply both sides by 2: $2E_k = mv^2$

Then divide both sides by m:

$$\frac{2E_k}{m} = v^2$$

Finally, take the square root of both sides:

$$\sqrt{\frac{2E_k}{m}} = v$$

Student Life

Library and Learning Services



4. Add u^2 to both sides:

$$v^2 = 2as + u^2$$

Minus 2as from both sides:

$$v^2 - 2as = u^2$$

Finally, take the square root of both sides:

$$\sqrt{v^2 - 2as} = u$$

5. Multiply both sides by *sin*(*A*):

$$a = \frac{b \sin(A)}{\sin(B)}$$

Then multiply both sides by sin(B): a sin(B) = b sin(A)

Divide both sides by *b*:

$$\frac{a\sin(B)}{b} = \sin(A)$$

Finally, take sin^{-1} of both sides:

$$\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{a\sin(B)}{b}\right) = A$$

Student Life Library and Learning Services



6. Factorise the left-hand side to get

$$y(x-2) = \alpha$$

Then divide both sides by x - 2:

$$y = \frac{\alpha}{x - 2}$$

7. Divide both sides by *M*:

$$\frac{N}{M} = e^{kt}$$

Take logs of both sides:

$$\log\left(\frac{N}{M}\right) = \log(e^{kt})$$

Then simplify:

$$\log\left(\frac{N}{M}\right) = kt$$

Divide both sides by k:

$$\frac{1}{k}\log\left(\frac{N}{M}\right) = t$$

Support: Study Development offers workshops, short courses, 1 to 1 and small group tutorials.

- Join a tutorial or workshop on the <u>Study Development tutorial and workshop webpage</u> or search 'YSJ study development tutorials.'
- Access our Study Success resources on the <u>Study Success webpage</u> or search 'YSJ study success.'