

Reteaching with Practice

For use with pages 551–557

GOAL**Find the side lengths of special right triangles****VOCABULARY**

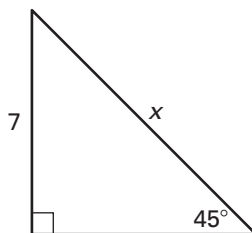
Right triangles whose angle measures are 45° - 45° - 90° or 30° - 60° - 90° are called **special right triangles**.

Theorem 9.8 The 45° - 45° - 90° Triangle Theorem

In a 45° - 45° - 90° triangle, the hypotenuse is $\sqrt{2}$ times as long as each leg.

Theorem 9.9 The 30° - 60° - 90° Triangle Theorem

In a 30° - 60° - 90° triangle, the hypotenuse is twice as long as the shorter leg, and the longer leg is $\sqrt{3}$ times as long as the shorter leg.

EXAMPLE 1**Finding Side Lengths in a 45° - 45° - 90° Triangle**Find the value of x .**SOLUTION**

By the Triangle Sum Theorem, the measure of the third angle is 45° . The triangle is a 45° - 45° - 90° right triangle, so the length x of the hypotenuse is $\sqrt{2}$ times the length of a leg.

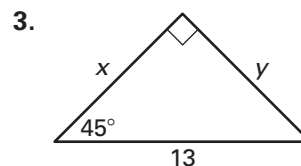
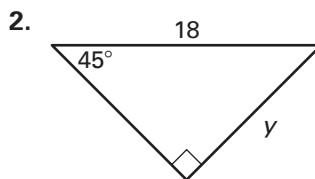
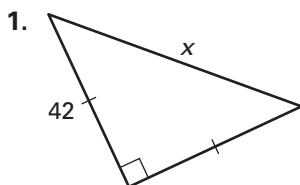
$$\text{Hypotenuse} = \sqrt{2} \cdot \text{leg} \quad 45^\circ\text{-}45^\circ\text{-}90^\circ \text{ Triangle Theorem}$$

$$x = \sqrt{2} \cdot 7 \quad \text{Substitute.}$$

$$x = 7\sqrt{2} \quad \text{Simplify.}$$

Exercises for Example 1

Find the value of each variable.

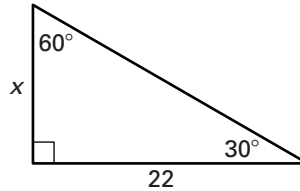


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EXAMPLE 2 Finding Side Lengths in a 30°-60°-90° Triangle

Find the value of x .



SOLUTION

Because the triangle is a 30°-60°-90° triangle, the longer leg is $\sqrt{3}$ times the length x of the shorter leg.

$$\text{Longer leg} = \sqrt{3} \cdot \text{shorter leg}$$

$$22 = \sqrt{3} \cdot x$$

$$\frac{22}{\sqrt{3}} = x$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{22}{\sqrt{3}} = x$$

$$\frac{22\sqrt{3}}{3} = x$$

30°-60°-90° Triangle Theorem

Substitute.

Divide each side by $\sqrt{3}$.

Multiply numerator and denominator by $\sqrt{3}$.

Simplify.

Exercises for Example 2

Find the value of each variable.

