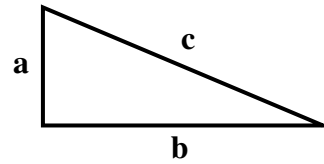


Section 7.2 - Proving Triangles are Right, Acute, or Obtuse

Proving a Triangle is a Right Triangle

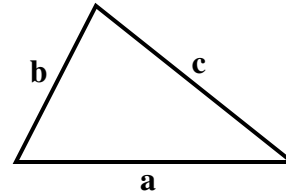
If $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$, then the triangle is a right triangle.



Proving a Triangle is an Acute Triangle

If $a^2 + b^2 > c^2$, then the triangle is an acute triangle.

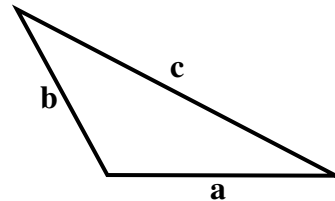
Note: A common mistake is thinking that “greater than” ($>$) means obtuse. Think the opposite.



Proving a Triangle is an Obtuse Triangle

If $a^2 + b^2 < c^2$, then the triangle is an obtuse triangle.

Note: A common mistake is thinking that “less than” ($<$) means acute. Think the opposite.



Important: a and b are always the smallest values and c is the largest.

Ex 1:

Classify a triangle with the given side lengths as right, acute, or obtuse.

Note: The side lengths are listed from smallest to largest.

a) 6, 8, 10

b) 6, 6, 10

c) 7, 9, 11

d) $\sqrt{8}, 4, 6$

e) $2\sqrt{3}, \sqrt{13}, 5$

f) $\sqrt{6}, \sqrt{8}, \sqrt{10}$

Ex 2:

The sides and classification of a triangle are given below. The length of the longest side is the integer given. What value(s) of x make the triangle?

a) $x, x, 8$; right

b) $x, x, 6$; acute

c) $x, 3x, 10$; obtuse