

Maths Instruction Words

Adapted from Cooke, H (2003) 'Success with Mathematics' Routledge

Adapt	indicate doing a mathematical activity and then reporting on the process and result
Apply	you must answer the question in a particular way indicated by whatever words immediately follow each of these cueing terms
Assume	you must answer the question in a particular way indicated by whatever words immediately follow each of these cueing terms
Attach	you need to provide evidence of having used something, for example a particular software package
Calculate	work out and show your working, using standard results and techniques
Compile (a table...)	you must answer the question in a particular way indicated by whatever words immediately follow each of these cueing terms
Confirm	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Consider	you must answer the question in a particular way indicated by whatever words immediately follow each of these cueing terms
Construct	indicate doing a mathematical activity and then reporting on the process and result
Decide (if, whether...)	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Deduce	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Define (in terms of.....)	you must answer the question in a particular way indicated by whatever words immediately follow each of these cueing terms
Demonstrate	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Derive	work out and show your working, using standard results and techniques
Design	indicate doing a mathematical activity and then reporting on the process and result
Determine	work out and show your working, using standard results and techniques; may also mean that you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Devise	indicate doing a mathematical activity and then reporting on the process and result
Differentiate	work out and show your working, using standard results and techniques
Draw	you must answer the question in a particular way indicated by whatever words immediately follow each of these cueing terms
Evaluate	work out and show your working, using standard results and techniques
Expand	work out and show your working, using standard results and techniques
Explain	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Explore	indicate doing a mathematical activity and then reporting on the process and result
Express/Express briefly	write down without justification ie no working need be shown
Factorise	work out and show your working, using standard results and techniques
Find	work out and show your working, using standard results and techniques: may also indicate doing a mathematical activity and then reporting on the process and result
Give	write down without justification ie no working need be shown

Identify	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Illustrate	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Include	you need to provide evidence of having used something, for example a particular software package
Indicate	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Integrate	work out and show your working, using standard results and techniques
Investigate	indicate doing a mathematical activity and then reporting on the process and result
Justify	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
List	write down without justification ie no working need be shown
Make (a table, list)	you must answer the question in a particular way indicated by whatever words immediately follow each of these cueing terms
Obtain	indicate doing a mathematical activity and then reporting on the process and result
Plot	you must answer the question in a particular way indicated by whatever words immediately follow each of these cueing terms
Predict	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Produce (an algorithm, argument, diagram)	indicate doing a mathematical activity and then reporting on the process and result
Prove	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Provide	you need to provide evidence of having used something, for example a particular software package
Show	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Simplify	work out and show your working, using standard results and techniques
Sketch	you must answer the question in a particular way indicated by whatever words immediately follow each of these cueing terms
Solve	work out and show your working, using standard results and techniques
Specify	write down without justification ie no working need be shown
State	write down without justification ie no working need be shown
Submit' (a printout, list,...)	you need to provide evidence of having used something, for example a particular software package
Supply	you need to provide evidence of having used something, for example a particular software package
Suppose	you must answer the question in a particular way indicated by whatever words immediately follow each of these cueing terms
Test	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Transform	work out and show your working, using standard results and techniques
Translate (from, into,...)	indicate doing a mathematical activity and then reporting on the process and result
Use	you must answer the question in a particular way indicated by whatever words immediately follow each of these cueing terms
Verify	you must justify each step and provide a convincing argument
Write down	write down without justification ie no working need be shown