## Angle Measurement

## Definition 1

An angle is a figure formed by two rays with a common endpoint. The two rays are called the sides of the angle and the common endpoint is called the vertex of the angle.

The sides of the angle shown are $\overrightarrow{B A}$ and $\overrightarrow{B C}$. The vertex is point $B$. The angle can be called $\angle \mathrm{B}, \angle \mathrm{CBA}, \angle \mathrm{ABC}$, or $\angle 1$. If three letters are used to name an angle, the middle letter must be the vertex.


When you talk about this $\angle \mathrm{B}$, everyone knows what angle you mean. But if you tried to talk about $\angle \mathrm{E}$ in the diagram, people wouldn't know which angle you meant. There are three angles with the vertex E .


To name any particular one of them you need to use either three letters or a number.
$\angle 2$ is $\angle \mathrm{RES}$ or $\angle \mathrm{SER}$
$\angle 3$ is $\angle$ SET or $\angle \mathrm{TES}$
$\angle \mathrm{RET}$ is $\angle \mathrm{TER}$.
A protractor is used to measure an angle in degrees (symbol: ${ }^{\circ}$ ). If the measure of the angle BOC is 70 degree, this is written " $m \angle \mathrm{BOC}=70^{\circ}$ ".

Using the protractor to measure an angle suggests that every angle has a measure, a basic assumption in geometry.


## Postulate 1: Protractor Postulate

Given $\overleftrightarrow{A B}$ and a number $r$ between 0 and 180 , there is exactly one ray with endpoint $A$, extending on each side of $\overleftrightarrow{A B}$, such that the measure of the angle formed is $r$.

In general, the Protractor Postulate says that to every angle there corresponds exactly one real number $n$ such that $0<x \leq 180$. The measure of the angle is $n$. We assume that the rays of an angle are distinct and cannot coincide. Therefore, an angle cannot have measure 0 .

Once the measure of an angle is known, the angle can be classified as one of three types of angles. These types are defined in relation to a right angle.


A right angle is an angle whose measure is $90^{\circ}$


An acute angle is an angle whose measure is less than $90^{\circ}$


An obtuse angle is an angle whose measure is greater than $90^{\circ}$ and less than $180^{\circ}$

Example 1: Find the measure of $\angle H C E, \angle G C D, \angle F C D$, and then classify each angle.

a) $m \angle H C E$
$m \angle H C E=|170-40|=|130|=130$ Obtuse
b) $m \angle G C D$
$m \angle G C D=|110-20|=|90|=90$ Right
c) $m \angle F C D$
$m \angle F C D=|80-20|=|60|=60$ Acute

## Definition 2

Congruent ( $\cong$ ) angles are angles that have the same measure.
$\angle \mathrm{A} \cong \angle \mathrm{B}$ means " $\angle \mathrm{A}$ is congruent to $\angle \mathrm{B}$ ".

In the figure, similar marking (arcs) are used to indicate that $\angle \mathrm{A}$ and $\angle \mathrm{B}$ are congruent. Unless marked as such, angles should not be assumed congruent.
By definition, congruent angles are angles that have the same measure. Therefore, the statements $\angle \mathrm{A} \cong \angle \mathrm{B}$ and $\mathrm{m} \angle \mathrm{A}=\mathrm{m} \angle \mathrm{B}$ are equivalent.


