

Polygon Names & Number of Sides

A Visual Reference Sheet with Stories to Help You Remember

A **polygon** is a closed figure made of straight line segments. Most polygon names come from **Greek roots** that tell you exactly how many sides the shape has.

Sides	Polygon Name	Root Meaning
3	Triangle	tri = three
4	Quadrilateral	quad = four
5	Pentagon	penta = five
6	Hexagon	hexa = six
7	Heptagon	hepta = seven
8	Octagon	octa = eight
9	Nonagon	ennea = nine
10	Decagon	deca = ten
12	Dodecagon	dodeca = twelve

Fun Math Stories

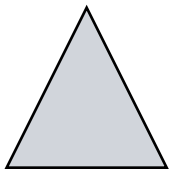
Why does an octagon have 8 sides, not 10 like October?

October used to be the **8th month** in the Roman calendar. The prefix **octa** still means eight today.

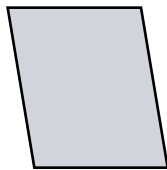
Why hexagon, not sextagon?

Polygon names mostly use **Greek** roots. **Hexa** is Greek for six.

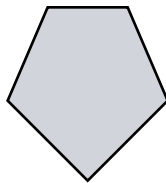
Visual Examples



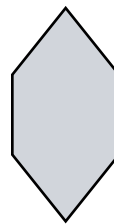
Triangle (3)



Quadrilateral (4)



Pentagon (5)



Hexagon (6)