

## Labels Used in Algebra

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There are many symbols and letters used in algebra, and many of them have a special meaning.

$\pi$  is a very special number, special enough to have a symbol to label it.

Less special numbers have letters to label them. Unknown numbers are labelled  $x$  or  $y$ , as are coordinate axes, though other symbols can be used.

Integers are generally labelled  $n$  (the 'natural numbers' are the positive integers) and  $m$ .

Lengths can be labelled by lots of different letter:  $a, b, c$  are used for triangles,  $a, b, h$  are used for trapeziums, and  $r$  is used for the radius of a circle.  $l$  is used to label the length of an arc - part of the perimeter - of a circle, and  $s$  is used to label the slant height of a cone.