# Compass and "Straight Edge" Constructions with some proofs.

To Construct the Perpendicular Bisector of a line.

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1. Place compass at A, set over halfway and draw 2 arcs.

2. Place compass at B, with same distance set and draw 2 arcs to intersect first two.

3. Draw the perpendicular bisector through the points of intersection.



point of intersection.

To draw a perpendicular to a given point on a line.

- 1. Place compass at P and with distance PA set, draw arc at C.
- 2. With compass at A and distance set greater than AP, draw arc above line AB.
- 3. Repeat with compass at C and same distance set.
- 4. Draw line through intersection of arcs to P. This line is perpendicular to P.





To construct the perpendicular to a given line from a given point, not on the line.

- 1. With centre P, draw an arc of a circle that intersects AB at 2 points.
- 2. With centre C and compass set over ½ distance CD draw arc below AB.
- 3. With centre D and same distance set, draw an arc to intersect the previous one.
- 4. The line through P and the intersecting arcs is perpendicular to AB.



To Construct a triangle, given 3 sides.

Example 1: To construct a triangle of sides 8 cm, 7cm and 6 cm.

- 1. Draw line 8cm long and use as base of triangle.
- 2. Set compass to 7 cm, place at A and draw an arc.
- 3. Set compass to 6 cm, place at B and draw an arc to intersect the first one.
- 4. Draw straight lines from A and B to point of intersection.



To Construct a triangle, given 3 sides.

Example 2: To construct a triangle of sides 7 cm, 9 cm and 4 cm.

- 1. Using the longest side as the base, draw a straight line 9 cm long.
- 2. Set compass to 7 cm, place at A and draw an arc.
- 3. Set compass to 4 cm, place at B and draw an arc to intersect the first one.
- 4. Draw straight lines from A and B to point of intersection.



To Construct a triangle, given 3 sides.



Example 3: To construct a triangle of sides 7 cm, 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cm and 10 cm.

- 1. Using the longest side as the base, draw a straight line 10 cm long.
- 2. Set compass to 7 cm, place at A and draw an arc.
- 3. Set compass to 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cm, place at B and draw an arc to intersect the first one.
- 4. Draw straight lines from A and B to point of intersection.





The table below shows lengths of sides for constructing a triangle. Which ones cannot form a triangle?

	Side 1	Side 2	Side 3
1	12 cm	8 cm	7 cm
2	9 cm	12 cm	4 cm
X	8 cm	15 cm	7 cm
4	18 cm	3 cm	20 cm
Х	8 cm	8 cm	17 cm
6	19 cm	7 cm	13 cm
X	9.3 cm	18 cm	7.2 cm
X	50 cm	26 cm	23 cm
X	40 cm	41 cm	82 cm
10	99 cm	2 cm	100 cm