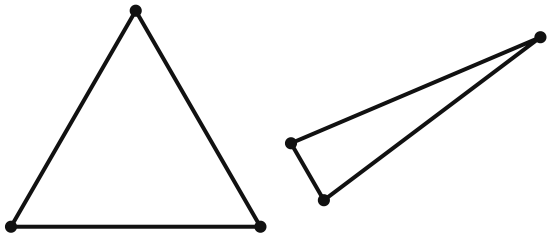
Shapes by Number of Sides: 3 to 7 Sides

Count the sides from a dot, all the way round. The corners match.

3

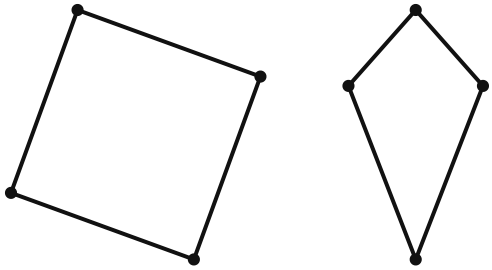


triangle

3 sides, 3 corners

everyday: a yield sign

4



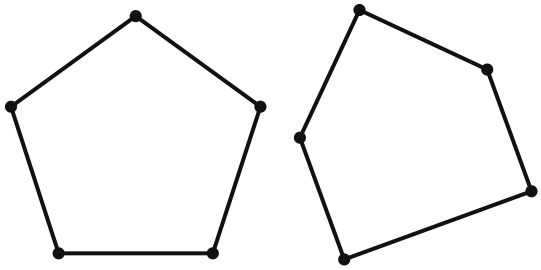
quadrilateral

4 sides, 4 corners

squares, rectangles, rhombuses and trapezoids are all quadrilaterals

everyday: a door, a book

5

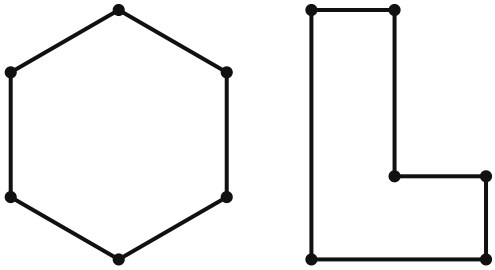


pentagon

5 sides, 5 corners

everyday: a school sign

6

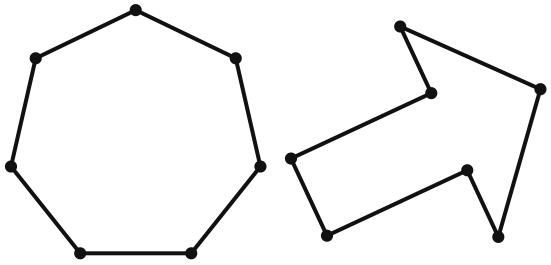


hexagon

6 sides, 6 corners

everyday: a honeycomb cell, a nut

7



heptagon (also septagon)

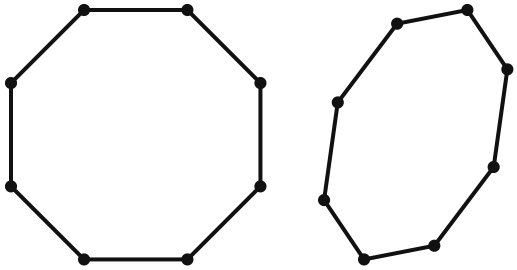
7 sides, 7 corners

everyday: an arrow

Shapes by Number of Sides: 8 to 12 Sides

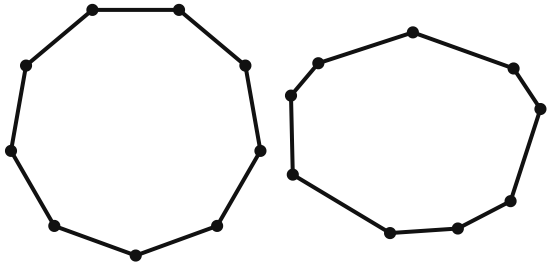
Count the sides from a dot, all the way round. The corners match.

8



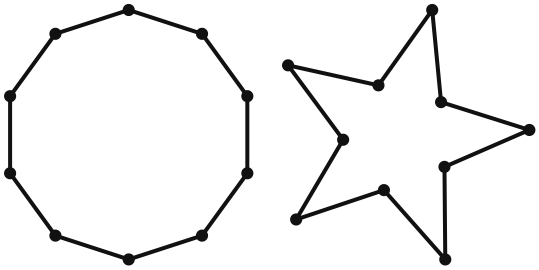
octagon
8 sides, 8 corners
everyday: a stop sign

9



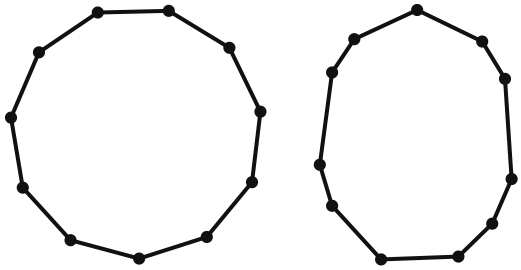
nonagon (also enneagon)
9 sides, 9 corners
everyday: rare in everyday things

10



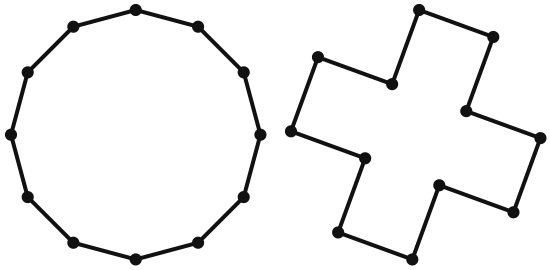
decagon
10 sides, 10 corners
everyday: a star's outline

11



hendecagon (also undecagon)
11 sides, 11 corners
everyday: rare in everyday things

12

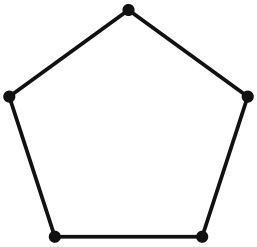


dodecagon
12 sides, 12 corners
everyday: a plus sign's outline

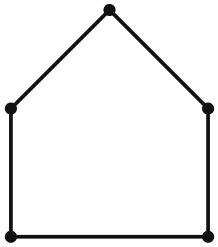
Shapes by Number of Sides: Same Count

Same count, different look: a shape is named by its sides, not by how it looks.

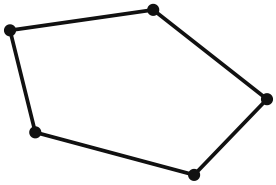
All of these are pentagons



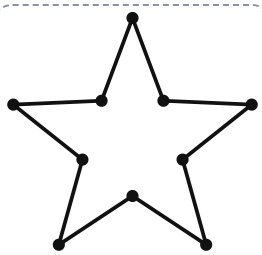
regular
5 sides



the house shape
5 sides

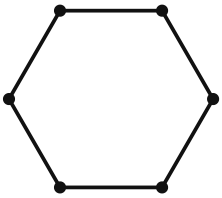


stretched
5 sides

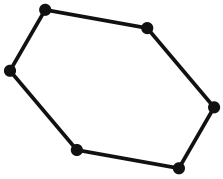


not a pentagon: a star outline
10 sides

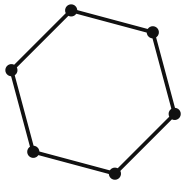
All of these are hexagons



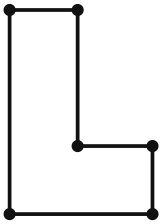
regular
6 sides



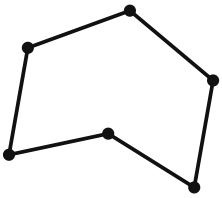
stretched
6 sides



turned
6 sides



the letter L
6 sides

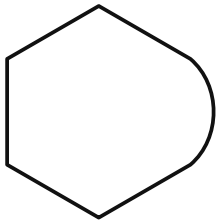


with a dent
6 sides

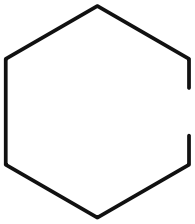


long and thin
6 sides

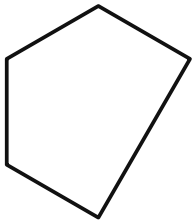
Not hexagons



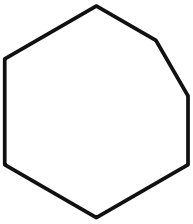
one curved side



not closed up



only five sides



seven sides, too

Shapes by Number of Sides: In the Name

Each name has its number inside it.

3	tri	triangle
4	quadri	quadrilateral
5	penta	pentagon
6	hexa	hexagon
7	hepta	heptagon
8	octa	octagon
9	nona	nonagon
10	deca	decagon
11	hendeca	hendecagon
12	dodeca	dodecagon

-gon means corner.
A seven-gon is a seven-sided shape. Any count can be said that way.

For Grown-Ups: How to Use These Charts

A chart for the fridge or a homework folder. For first to third grade.

Why use it

A shape's name is its number of sides. Second graders identify pentagons and hexagons (Common Core 2.G.A.1), and Texas sorts shapes with up to 12 sides (TEKS 2.8(C)). The Common Core writers accept “seven-gon” too.

What it is good for

- The names of shapes with 3 to 12 sides.
- Seeing that an L, an arrow, or a star outline is named by its sides too.
- Hearing the number inside each name: penta five, hexa six, octa eight.

How to use it

1. Put a finger on a corner dot and count the sides all the way round, back to the dot.
2. Say the number shape first, a seven-sided shape or a seven-gon, then the name.
3. Compare the two drawings in a row: they look different and have the same count.
4. On the third page, say why each shape that is not a hexagon is not one.
5. Go and find one outside: a yield sign, a stop sign, a star drawn on paper.

> **Try saying:** “Start at the dot. One, two, three... seven sides. So it is a heptagon.”

Tip: For a younger child, start with the 2D shapes chart, the circle to the octagon, on our 2D shapes page.