

Yiddish Mathematics

by Morrie Feller

My three Phoenix grandchildren, knowing of my interest in both Yiddish and geometry, have given me an interesting advance birthday gift. It is a geometry book written in Yiddish. It actually is a translation of an English geometry book which was published in 1910. My grandson, Avi, discovered that the NYBC had digitized this book, and he was able to order a single copy.

I translated the instructions for constructing a diagram used to prove the Pythagorean Theorem, and following these instructions, I came up with a proof of this theorem which I had not known before.

Many years ago Prof. Mordkhe Schaechter, z"l issued a call for science texts written in Yiddish. I happened to have an Algebra book written in Yiddish, and I sent it to him. In the early decades of the twentieth century, many English works of science were translated into Yiddish.

Below is a copy of the book.



Mathematics words is the newest list that has been added to the transliterated lists on *Der Bay's* website: www.derbay.org/words/index.html

List of Mathematics Words

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| Add | tsugebn |
| Algebra | di algebre |
| Angle | der vinkl |
| Area | der shetekh |

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Arithmetic | di aritmetik |
| Average | der durkhshnit |
| Calculus | der kalkulus |
| Cardinal numbers | Grunttsoln |
| Circle | der krayz |
| Circumference | der arumnem |
| Cube | der kub |
| Decimal | der detsimal-punkt |
| Denominator | der teyler |
| Diameter | der diameter |
| Difference | der untersheyd |
| Digit | der tsifer |
| Divide | tseteyln |
| Equal | glaykh |
| Equation | di glaykhung |
| Even | glaykhmesik |
| Fraction | di brokhtsol |
| Geometry | di geometrye |
| Graph | der grafik |
| Infinity | di umendikayt |
| Integer | di gantsol |
| Line | di shure |
| Mathematics | di matematik |
| Multiply | kaflen |
| Negative | der negativ |
| Number | di tsol |
| Numeral | di tsifer |
| Numerator | der tseyler |
| Odd | numik |
| Ordinal numbers | di seder tsoln |
| Parallel | paralel |
| Percent | der protsent |
| Perpendicular | perpendikular |
| Pi | pay |
| Plane | di flakh |
| Positive | der pozitiv |
| Product | der produkt |
| Radius | der reydius |
| Ratio | di proportsye |
| Rectangle | der gradek |
| Sphere | der kaylekh |
| Square | der kvadrat |
| Subtract | aropnemen |
| Sum | di sume |
| Theorem | di teorem |
| Triangle | der drayek |
| Trigonometry | di trigonometrye |
| Volume | der farnem |

