



Conics Sections Glossary

| Term | Definition |
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| Circle | A closed curve where all points are equidistant from a central point |
| Ellipse | A closed conic section with two unequal axes |
| Parabola | An open conic section with a single axis of symmetry |
| Hyperbola | An open conic section with two separate branches |
| Major Axis | The longest diameter of an ellipse or hyperbola |
| Minor Axis | The shortest diameter of an ellipse |
| Cartesian | Relating to a coordinate system with perpendicular x and y axes |
| Parametric | Relating to a variable parameter that defines the equations of a curve |
| Tangent | A line that touches a curve at a single point without intersecting it |
| Normal | A line perpendicular to the tangent line of a curve at a given point |
| Latus Rectum | A line segment passing through a focus and perpendicular to the major axis |
| Semi-Major Axis | Half the length of the major axis of an ellipse or hyperbola |
| Eccentricity | A measure of the elongation of a conic section |
| Foci | The plural of focus, the points that define the shape of a conic section |
| Asymptotes | Lines that a hyperbola or parabola approaches but never touches |
| Directrix | A line that, along with a focus, defines the shape of a conic section |
| Vertex | The point on a conic section where the curve changes direction |
| Semi-Minor Axis | Half the length of the minor axis of an ellipse |