

Teaching Mathematics as a language

“Mathematics is a language that makes use of symbols and notations for describing numerical, geometric and graphical relationships.” CAPS p.8.

From this premise we should consider teaching Mathematics as a language subject. This thus requires teachers to observe the following:

Guarding against confusing terms (congruent vs equivalent), formats (quadrant layout; analog vs digital clocks) and confusing symbols (●, ×, (); √, ∫)

Explaining the What? (meaning of term or topic), Where? (application/context), When? (to carry out operations or apply formula), Why? (application) and How? (clearly laid out steps) during teaching.

When language is understood, learning becomes easier.