Lesson 20: Applications of Congruence in Terms of Rigid Motions

Classwork

Opening

*Every congruence gives rise to a correspondence.*

Under our deﬁnition of congruence, when we say that one ﬁgure is congruent to another, we mean that there is a rigid motion that maps the ﬁrst onto the second. That rigid motion is called a congruence.

Recall the Grade 7 deﬁnition: *A correspondence between two triangles is a pairing of each vertex of one triangle with one and only one vertex of the other triangle.* When reasoning about ﬁgures, it is useful to be able to refer to corresponding parts (e.g., sides and angles) of the two ﬁgures. We look at one part of the ﬁrst ﬁgure and compare it to the corresponding part of the other. Where does a correspondence come from? We might be told by someone how to make the vertices correspond. Conversely, we might make our own correspondence by matching the parts of one triangle with the parts of another triangle based on appearance. Finally, if we have a congruence between two ﬁgures, the congruence gives rise to a correspondence.

A rigid motion always produces a one-to-one correspondence between the points in a ﬁgure (the *pre-image*) and points in its image. If is a point in the ﬁgure, then the corresponding point in the image is . A rigid motion also maps each part of the ﬁgure to a corresponding part of the image. As a result, *corresponding parts of congruent ﬁgures are congruent* since the very same rigid motion that makes a congruence between the ﬁgures also makes a congruence between each part of the ﬁgure and the corresponding part of the image.

In proofs, we frequently refer to the fact that corresponding angles, sides, or parts of congruent triangles are congruent. This is simply a repetition of the deﬁnition of congruence. If is congruent to because there is a rigid motion such that , , and , then is congruent to , is congruent to , and so forth because the rigid motion takes to and to

*There are correspondences that do not come from congruences.*

The sides (and angles) of two ﬁgures might be compared even when the ﬁgures are not congruent. For example, a carpenter might want to know if two windows in an old house are the same, so the screen for one could be interchanged with the screen for the other. He might list the parts of the ﬁrst window and the analogous parts of the second, thus making a correspondence between the parts of the two windows. Checking part by part, he might ﬁnd that the angles in the frame of one window are slightly diﬀerent from the angles in the frame of the other, possibly because the house has tilted slightly as it aged. He has used a correspondence to help describe the differences between the windows, not to describe a congruence.

In general, given any two triangles, one could make a table with two columns and three rows, and then list the vertices of the first triangle in the first column and the vertices of the second triangle in the second column in a random way. This would create a correspondence between the triangles, though generally not a very useful one. No one would expect a random correspondence to be very useful, but it is a correspondence nonetheless.

Later, when we study similarity, we will find that it is very useful to be able to set up correspondences between triangles despite the fact that the triangles are not congruent. Correspondences help us to keep track of which part of one figure we are comparing to that of another. It makes the rules for associating part to part explicit and systematic so that other people can plainly see what parts go together.

Discussion

Let’s review function notation for rigid motions.

* 1. To name a translation, we use the symbol . We use the letter to signify that we are referring to a translation and the letters and to indicate the translation that moves each point in the direction from to along a line parallel to line by distance . The image of a point is denoted . Specifically, .
	2. To name a reﬂection, we use the symbol , where is the line of reﬂection. The image of a point is denoted . In particular, if is a point on , . For any point , line is the perpendicular bisector of segment .
	3. To name a rotation, we use the symbol to remind us of the word rotation. is the center point of the rotation, and represents the degree of the rotation counterclockwise around the center point. Note that a positive degree measure refers to a counterclockwise rotation, while a negative degree measure refers to a clockwise rotation.

Example 1

In each figure below, the triangle on the left has been mapped to the one on the right by a rotation about . Identify all six pairs of corresponding parts (vertices and sides).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Corresponding vertices | Corresponding sides |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

What rigid motion mapped onto ? Write the transformation in function notation.

Example 2

Given a triangle with vertices , and , list all the possible correspondences of the triangle with itself.

Example 3

Give an example of two quadrilaterals and a correspondence between their vertices such that (a) corresponding sides are congruent, but (b) corresponding angles are not congruent.

Problem Set

1. Given two triangles, one with vertices , and , and the other with vertices , , and, there are six diﬀerent correspondences of the ﬁrst with the second.
	1. One such correspondence is the following:

Write the other five correspondences.

* 1. If all six of these correspondences come from congruences, then what can you say about ?
	2. If two of the correspondences come from congruences, but the others do not, then what can you say about ?
	3. Why can there be no two triangles where three of the correspondences come from congruences but the

others do not?

1. Give an example of two triangles and a correspondence between them such that (a) all three corresponding angles are congruent, but (b) corresponding sides are not congruent.
2. Give an example of two triangles and a correspondence between their vertices such that (a) one angle in the ﬁrst is congruent to the corresponding angle in the second and (b) two sides of the ﬁrst are congruent to the corresponding sides of the second, but (c) the triangles themselves are not congruent.
3. Give an example of two quadrilaterals and a correspondence between their vertices such that (a) all four corresponding angles are congruent and (b) two sides of the ﬁrst are congruent to two sides of the second, but (c) the two quadrilaterals are not congruent.
4. A particular rigid motion, , takes point as input and gives point as output. That is, . The same rigid motion maps point to point . Since rigid motions preserve distance, is it reasonable to state that ? Does it matter which type of rigid motion is? Justify your response for each of the three types of rigid motion. Be speciﬁc. If it is indeed the case, for some class of transformations, that is true for all and , explain why. If not, oﬀer a counter-example.