## Lesson 5: The Pythagorean Identity (Part 1)

* Let’s learn more about cosine and sine.

### 5.1: Circle Equations

Here is a circle centered at $(0,0)$ with a radius of 1 unit.

What are the exact coordinates of $P$ if $P$ is rotated counterclockwise $\frac{π}{3}$ radians from the point $(1,0)$? Explain or show your reasoning.



### 5.2: Cosine, Sine, and the Unit Circle

What are the exact coordinates of point $Q$ if it is rotated $\frac{2π}{3}$ radians counterclockwise from the point $(1,0)$? Explain or show your reasoning.



### 5.3: A New Identity

1. Is the point $\left(-0.5,sin(\frac{4π}{3})\right)$ on the unit circle? Explain or show your reasoning.
2. Is the point $\left(-0.5,sin(\frac{5π}{6})\right)$ on the unit circle? Explain or show your reasoning.
3. Suppose that $sin(θ)=-0.5$ and that $θ$ is in quadrant 4. What is the exact value of $cos(θ)$? Explain or show your reasoning.

#### Are you ready for more?

Show that if $θ$ is an angle between 0 and $2π$ and neither $cos(θ)=0$ nor $sin(θ)=0$, then it is impossible for the sum of $cos(θ)$ and $sin(θ)$ to be equal to 1.

### Lesson 5 Summary

Let’s say we have a point $P$ with coordinates $(a,b)$ on the unit circle, like the one shown here:



Using the Pythagorean Theorem, we know that $a^{2}+b^{2}=1$. We also know this is true using the equation for a circle with radius 1 unit, $x^{2}+y^{2}=1^{2}$, which is true for the point $(a,b)$ since it is on the circle.

Another way to write the coordinates of $P$ is using the angle $θ$, which gives the location of $P$ on the unit circle relative to the point $(1,0)$. Thinking of $P$ this way, its coordinates are $(cos(θ),sin(θ))$. Since $a=cos(θ)$ and $b=sin(θ)$, we can return to the Pythagorean Theorem and say that $cos^{2}(θ)+sin^{2}(θ)=1$ is also true.

What if $θ$ were a different angle and $P$ wasn’t in quadrant 1? It turns out that no matter the quadrant, the coordinates of any point on the unit circle given by an angle $θ$ are $(cos(θ),sin(θ))$. In fact, the definitions of $cos(θ)$ and $sin(θ)$ are the $x$- and $y$-coordinates of the point on the unit circle $θ$ radians counterclockwise from $(1,0)$. Up until today, we’ve only been using the quadrant 1 values for cosine and sine to find side lengths of right triangles, which are always positive.

This revised definition of cosine and sine means that $cos^{2}(θ)+sin^{2}(θ)=1$ is true for all values of $θ$ defined on the unit circle and is known as the **Pythagorean Identity**.



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