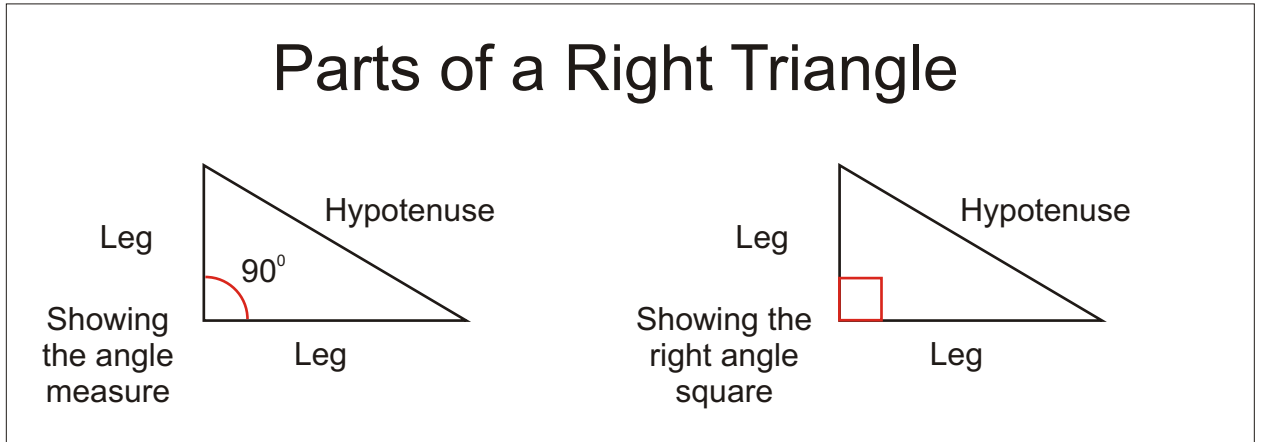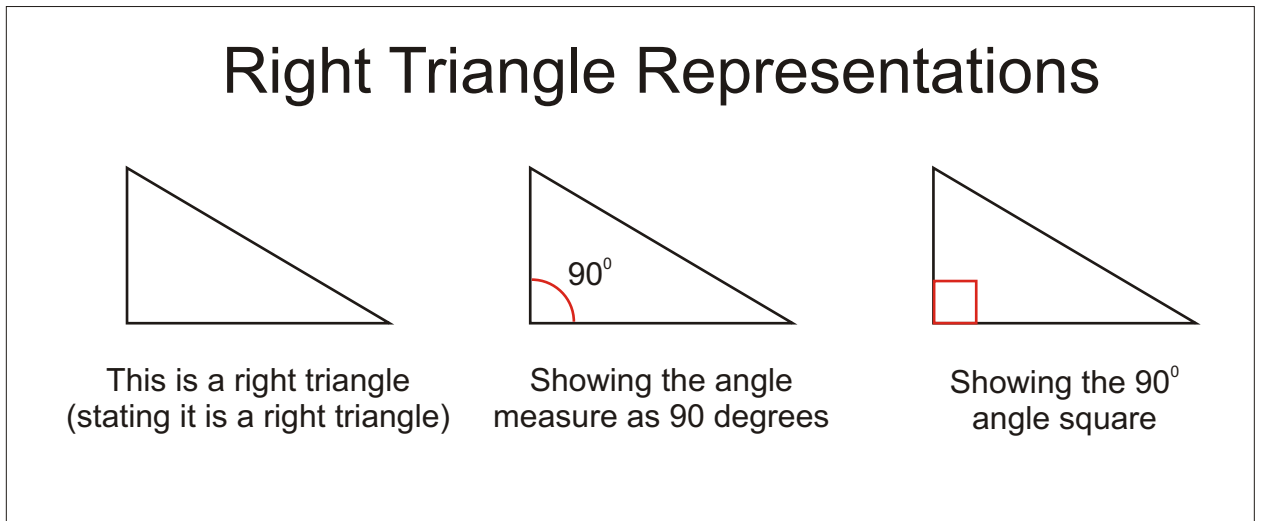What is a right triangle? Every triangle that has a 90 degree angle is a right triangle. The longest side of a right triangle is called **the hypotenuse**. It is always across from the 90 degree angle (also called the right angle). The other two sides, which are always shorter than the hypotenuse, are called **the legs**.

Parts of a Right Triangle

Leg   Hypotenuse 90^0 Showing the angle measure   Leg

Leg   Hypotenuse   Showing the right angle square   Leg

There are three ways to show that a triangle is a right triangle. You can say it is a right triangle, you can show the angle measurement of one of the angles as 90 degrees, or you can put the right angle box in the right angle.

Right Triangle Representations

This is a right triangle (stating it is a right triangle)

90^0 Showing the angle measure as 90 degrees

Showing the 90^0 angle square

What is a 90 degree angle and a right angle? They are the same thing. A right angle is formed when two lines intersect and are perpendicular. You are familiar with right angles even if you don't realize it. The corners of squares and rectangles are right angles. The lines that intersect to form the letters "E", "F", "H", "L" and "T" are perpendicular, they intersect at right angles.