

Solving Problems with Trigonometric Ratios

Terminology:

Angle of Elevation (or Inclination): the angle measured above the horizontal.

Angle of Depression (or Declination): the angle measured below the horizontal.

angle of elevation

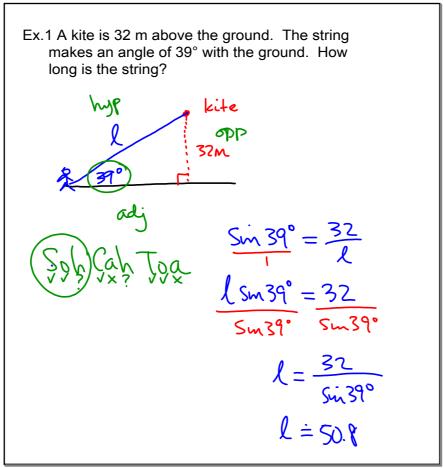
angle of depression

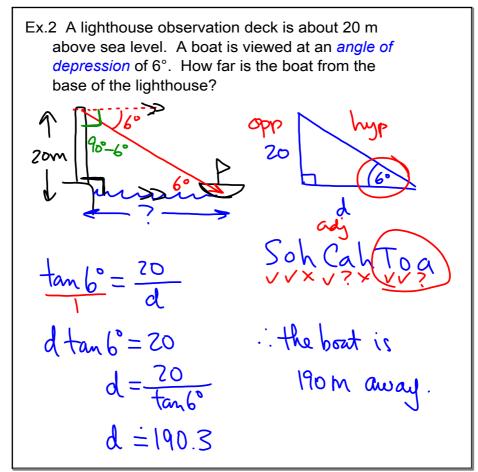
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## Steps:

- 1) If possible, draw a good diagram of the situation.
- 2) Identify the unknown (what are you looking for?).
- 3) Label the sides of the triangle as opposite, hypotenuse, and adjacent with respect to the given angle (or the unknown if angle is what you are looking for).
- 4) Identify the trigonometric ratio that relates to the unknown and two of the unknowns OR Pythagorean Theorem OR the sum of the angles in a triangle.
- 5) Solve.

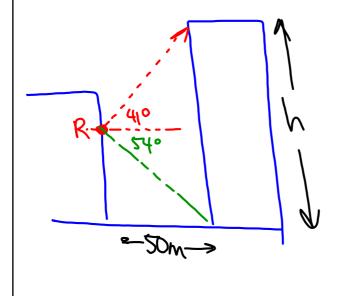
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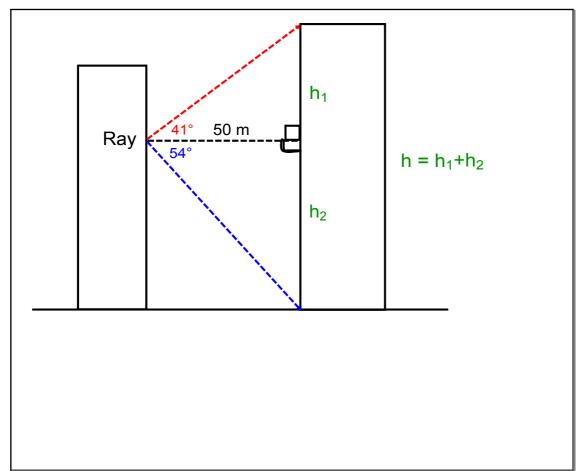




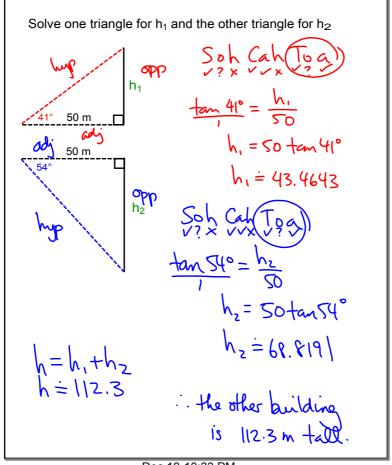
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Ex.3 From the window of a building, Ray finds the angle of elevation to the top of a second building to be 41°. The angle of depression to the bottom is 54°. The buildings are 50 m apart. How tall is the second building?

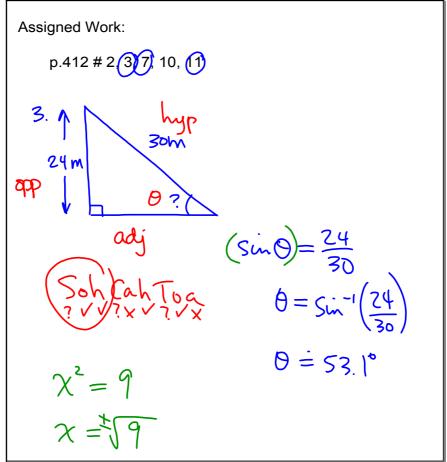




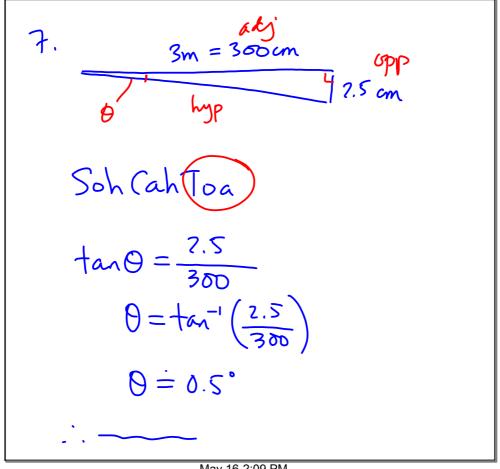
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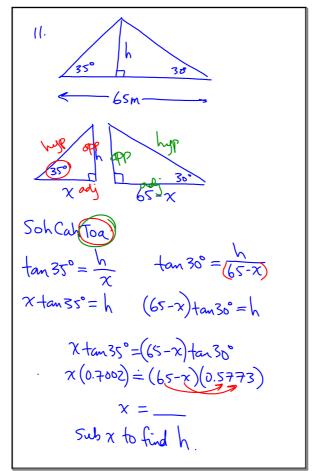


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