

## 7.2: Sets

Definition: A *set* is a well-defined collection of objects. Each object in a set is called an *element* of that set.

Examples of sets: All NBA players currently on NBA roster  
All dogs registered with American Kennel Club  
All U.S. citizens over 6 feet tall

Not sets: All people who play basketball  
All cute dogs  
All tall people Americans

Sets can be finite or infinite.

Examples of finite sets:

The set of NBA players

The integers between  $-100$  and  $100$ .  
 $-100, -99, -98, \dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, 100$

Examples of infinite sets:

The set of all integers:  $\{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$   
The set of real numbers between 0 and 1



Notation:

- We usually use capital letters for sets.
- We usually use lower-case letters for elements of a set.

- $a \in A$  means  $a$  is an element of the set  $A$ .  $a \in A$
- $a \notin A$  means  $a$  is not an element of the set  $A$ .  $a \notin A$

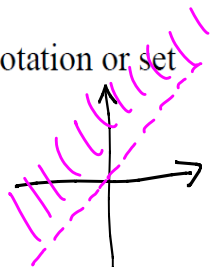
$\in$  means "is an element of"  
 $\notin$  means "is not an element of"

- The *empty set* is the set with no elements. It is denoted  $\emptyset$ . This is sometimes called the *null set*.

- $S = \{x \mid P(x)\}$  means " $S$  is the set of all  $x$  such that  $P(x)$  is true". (called rule notation or set builder notation). (or set builder notation)  $\{ (x, y) \mid y > x \}$

Example:  $S = \{x \mid x \text{ is an even positive integer}\}$  means  $S = \{2, 4, 6, 8, \dots\}$

Definition: We say two sets are *equal* if they have exactly the same elements.



**Subsets:**

Definition: If each element of a set  $A$  is also an element of set  $B$ , we say that  $A$  is a *subset* of  $B$ . This is denoted  $A \subseteq B$  or  $A \subset B$ . If  $A$  is not a subset of  $B$ , we write  $A \not\subseteq B$ .

$A \subseteq B$  or  $A \subset B$

$A \not\subseteq B$

Definition: We say  $A$  is a *proper subset* of  $B$  if  $A \subseteq B$  but  $A \neq B$ . (In other words, every element of  $A$  is also an element of  $B$ , but  $B$  contains at least one element that is not in  $A$ .)

Note on notation: Some books use the symbol  $\subset$  to indicate a proper subset. Some books use  $\subseteq$  to indicate any subset, proper or not.

Definition: The set of all elements under consideration is called the *universal set*, usually denoted  $U$ . (or universe)

Example: If you're dealing with sets of real numbers, then  $U$  is the set of all real numbers. So "Wednesday" would not be an element of  $U$ , but 5.7 would be in  $U$ .

**Example 1:** Consider these sets.

$$A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

$$A = C$$

$$B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$$

$$A \subseteq B$$

$$C = \{1, 3, 5, 2, 4, 6\}$$

$$C \subseteq B$$

$A$  is a proper subset of  $B$ .  
 $A \rightarrow$  not a proper subset etc.  
 $A \subseteq C$   
 $C \subseteq A$

Note:

- $\emptyset$  is a subset of every set. (i.e.  $\emptyset \subseteq A$  for every set  $A$ .)
- Every set is a subset of itself. (i.e.  $A \subseteq A$  for every set  $A$ .)

**Example 2:** List all subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ .

$\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{3, 1\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \emptyset$

Note: If a set has  $n$  elements, how many subsets does it have?  $2^n$  subsets. So a set with 3 elements has  $2^3 = 8$  subsets.

**Set operations:**

- Union  $\cup$  :  $A \cup B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\}$

Key word: OR

- Intersection  $\cap$  :  $A \cap B = \{x \mid x \in A \text{ and } x \in B\}$

Key word: AND

- Complement  $A'$  or  $A^c$  or  $A^{\sim}$  :  $A' = \{x \in U \mid x \notin A\}$ .

Complement is  $A'$  or  $A^c$  or  $A^{\sim}$

Key word: NOT

Note:  $A \subseteq (A \cup B)$  and  $B \subseteq (A \cup B)$ .

$(A \cap B) \subseteq A$  and  $(A \cap B) \subseteq B$ .

Definition: We say that  $A$  and  $B$  are *disjoint sets* if  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ .

Example 3:  $U = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$

$$H = \{1, 3, 5, 7\}$$

$$K = \{1, 3, 5, 6\}$$

$$J = \{2, 4, 6, 8\}$$

$$L = \{2, 3, 4\}$$

$$H \cap K = \{1, 3, 5\}$$

$$K \cap L = \{3\}$$

$$H \cap J = \emptyset \quad (\text{H and J are disjoint... they do not overlap})$$

$$H \cup K = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 6\} = \{1, 3, 5, 6, 7\}$$

$$L \cup K = \{2, 3, 4, 1, 5, 6\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

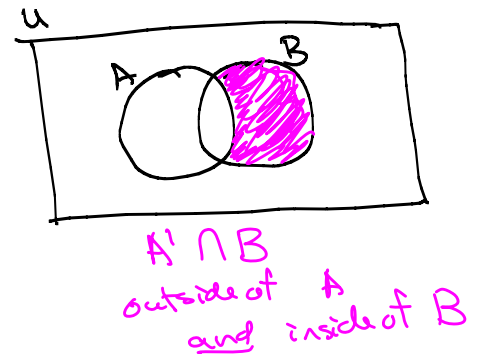
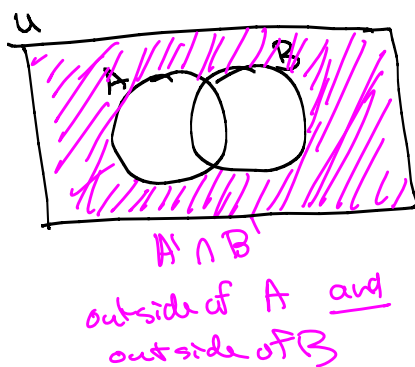
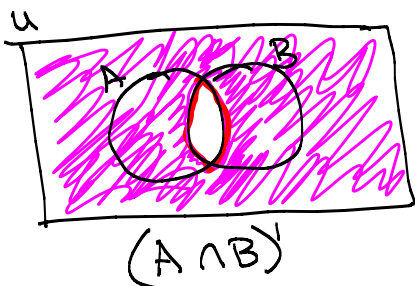
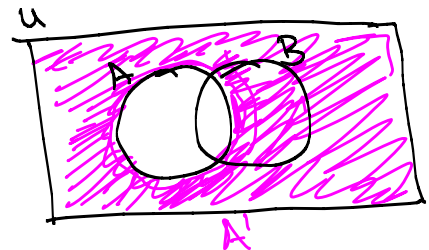
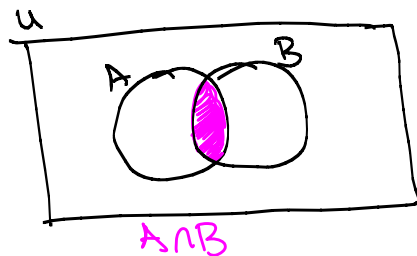
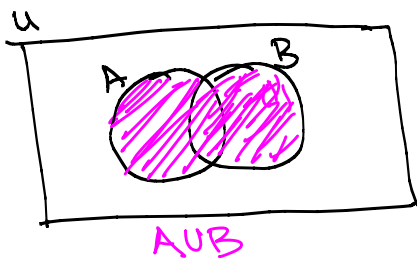
$$L' = L^c = L \text{ complement:}$$

$$L' = \{1, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$$

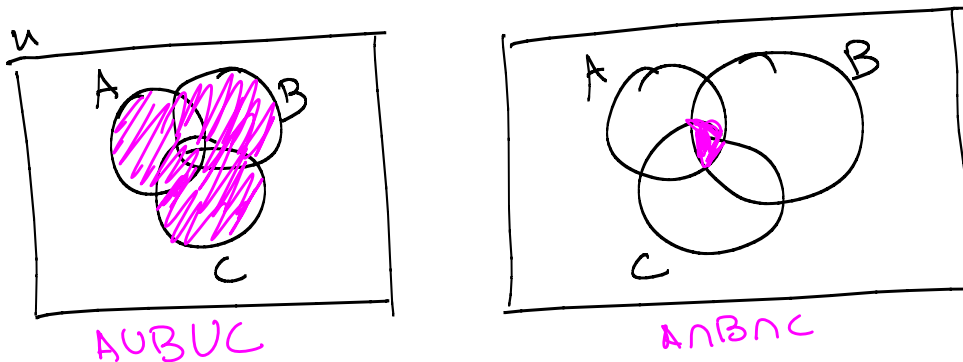
$$K' = \{2, 4, 7, 8\}$$

**Venn Diagrams:** These help us visualize set relationships and operations.

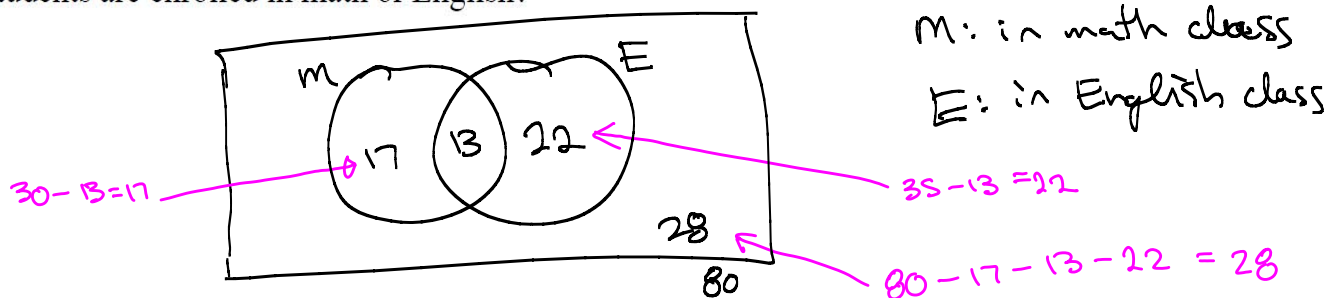
Example 4: Draw Venn diagrams for  $A \cup B$ ,  $A \cap B$ ,  $A'$ ,  $(A \cap B)'$ ,  $A' \cap B'$ , and  $A' \cap B$ .



**Example 5:** On a Venn diagram, shade  $A \cup B \cup C$ ,  $A \cap B \cap C$ , and  $(A \cup B)' \cap C$ .



**Example 6:** Consider a group of <sup>80</sup> students. 30 of them are enrolled in a math course and 35 are enrolled in an English course. 13 of the students are enrolled in an English course and also a math course. How many students are enrolled in math or English?



$$n(M \cup E) = 17 + 13 + 22 = 52$$

There are 52 students enrolled in math or English.

From Addition Principle

$$n(M) = 30$$

$$n(E) = 35$$

$$n(M \cap E) = n(E \cap M) = 13$$

$$n(M \cup E) = n(M) + n(E) - n(E \cap M) = 30 + 35 - 13 = 65 - 13 = \boxed{52}$$

Notation:  $n(A)$  means the number of elements in set  $A$ .

Addition principle for Counting

For any two sets  $A$  and  $B$ ,

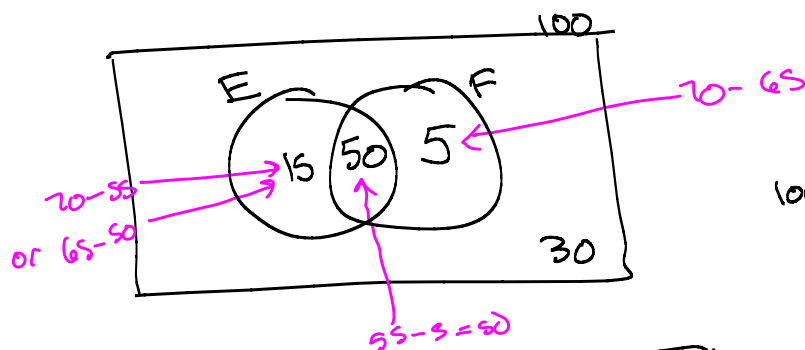
$$n(A \cup B) = n(A) + n(B) - n(A \cap B).$$

If  $A$  and  $B$  are disjoint ( $A \cap B = \emptyset$ ), then  $n(A \cup B) = n(A) + n(B)$ .

**Example 7:** 100 students are surveyed to determine if they had watched ESPN or Fox Sports Channel in the last 3 months. The results show that 65 students watched ESPN, 55 watched Fox Sports, and 30 watched neither.

- How many people watched ESPN but not Fox Sports?
- How many people watched Fox Sports but not ESPN?
- How many watched both networks?

$E$ : people who watched ESPN  
 $F$ : people who watched Fox Sports



$$100 - 30 = 70 \Rightarrow$$

- $n(E \cap F') = 15$
- $n(F \cap E') = 5$
- $n(E \cap F) = 50$

**Example 8:** I want to buy a car from Jay Austin Motors. Of all the cars on the lot, 89 cars have navigation systems, 100 have touch-screen controls, and 74 have blind spot alert systems. 32 cars have both navigation systems and blind spot alert, 40 have both a touch screen and a blind spot alert system, and 53 have a touch screen and a navigation system. Twelve cars have all three features, and 21 cars are base models with none of these features.

I strongly dislike having a touch screen, but I would like a navigation system and a blind spot alert system. How many cars do I have to choose from?

How many cars are on Jay Austin's lot?

See video!