Similar Figures

Similar figures have the same shape, but not necessarily the same size. More specifically they must meet the following criteria:

1. Corresponding angles are congruent
2. Corresponding sides are proportional

The symbol for similarity “~” means “is similar to.”

In the diagram below ∆ABC ~ ∆DEF.

D

A

F

E

B

C

Because corresponding angles are congruent we can write the following statements:



Because corresponding side lengths are proportional we can write the ratios of the corresponding side lengths as equal: