

4.1 Radian Measure Lesson with solutions

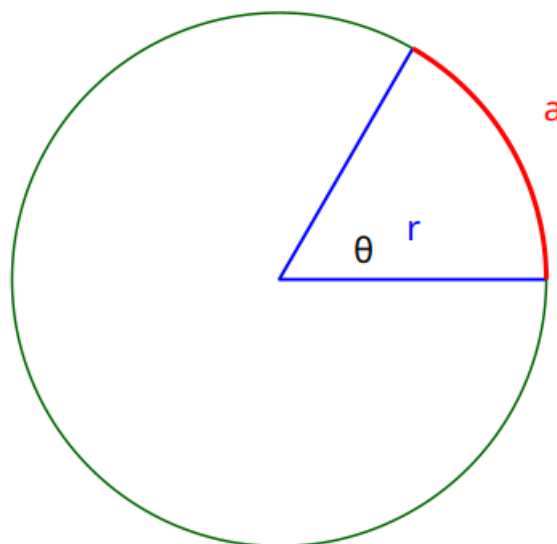
This document was composed and formatted by Annie Bernatchez.

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Part 1: What is a Radian?

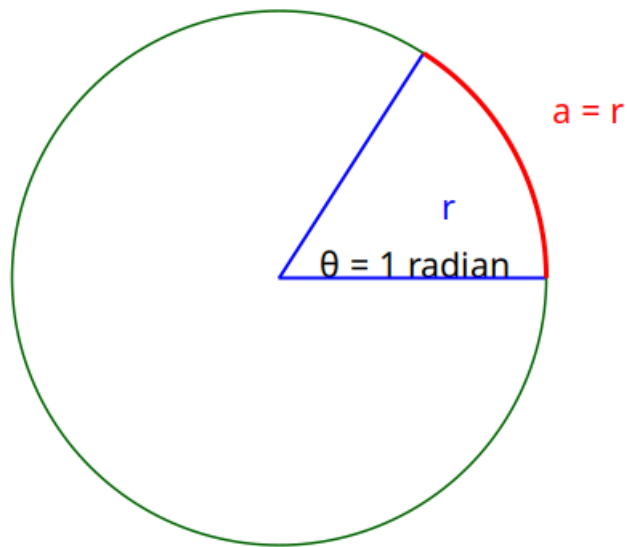
Angles are commonly measured in **degrees**. However, in mathematics and physics, there are many applications in which expressing an angle as a pure number, without units, is more convenient than using degrees.

When measuring in **radians**, the size of an angle is expressed in terms of the length of an arc, a , that subtends the angle, θ , where $\theta = \frac{a}{r}$.



1 Radian is defined as the size of an angle that is subtended by an arc with a length **equal to the radius** of the circle.

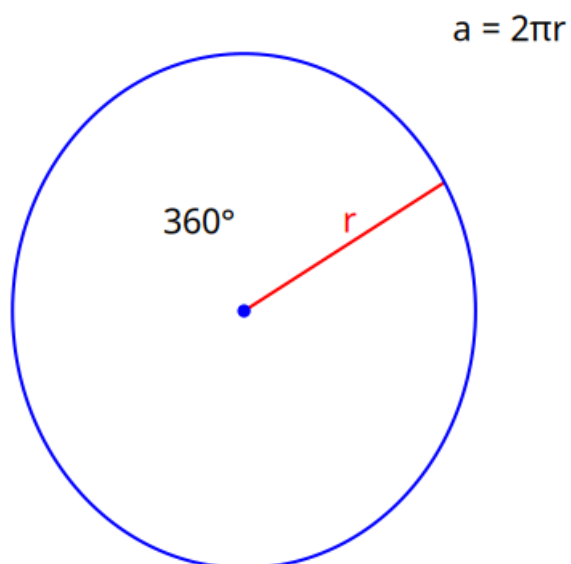
Therefore, when the arc length and radius are equal, $\theta = \frac{a}{r} = \frac{r}{r} = 1 \text{ radian}$



How many radians are in a full circle? Or in other words, how many times can an arc length equal to the radius fit around the circumference of a circle?

Remember: $C = 2\pi r$

So if we use the full circumference of the circle for the arc length, $\theta = \frac{a}{r} = \frac{2\pi r}{r} = 2\pi \text{ radians}$



Part 2: Switching Between Degrees and Radians

The key relationship you need to know in order to switch between degrees and radians is:

$360^\circ = 2\pi$ radians

1 degree = $\frac{\pi}{180}$ radians To switch from degrees to radians, multiply by $\frac{\pi}{180}$	1 radian = $\frac{180}{\pi}$ degrees To switch from radians to degrees, multiply by $\frac{180}{\pi}$
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Example 1: Start by converting the following common degree measures to radians

a) 180°

$180^\circ = 180^\circ \times \frac{\pi}{180}$
 $= \pi$ radians

b) 90°

$90^\circ = 90^\circ \times \frac{\pi}{180}$
 $= \frac{\pi}{2}$ radians

c) 60°

$60^\circ = 60^\circ \times \frac{\pi}{180}$
 $= \frac{\pi}{3}$ radians

d) 45°

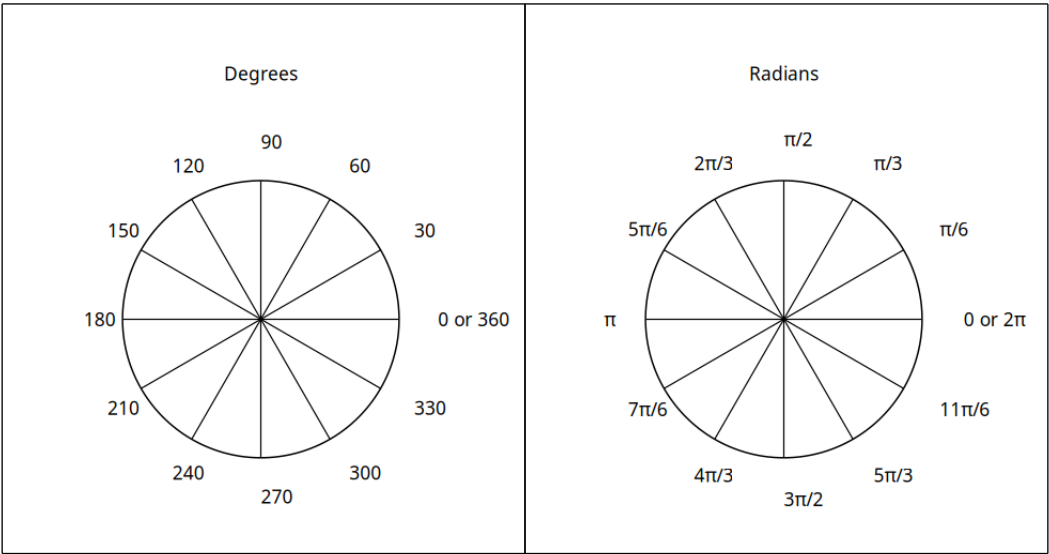
$45^\circ = 45^\circ \times \frac{\pi}{180}$
 $= \frac{\pi}{4}$ radians

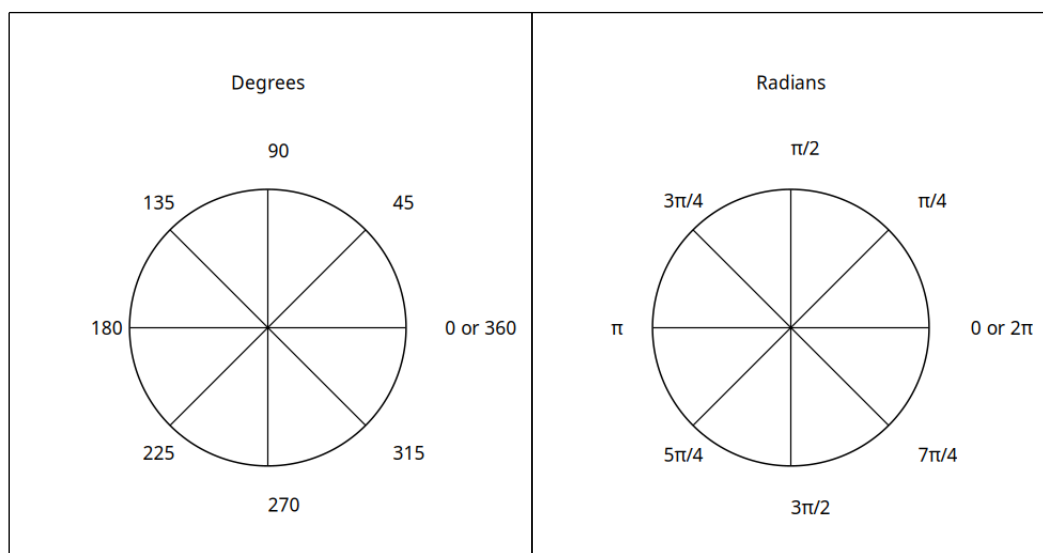
e) 30°

$30^\circ = 30^\circ \times \frac{\pi}{180}$
 $= \frac{\pi}{6}$ radians

f) 1°

$1^\circ = 1^\circ \times \frac{\pi}{180}$
 $= \frac{\pi}{180}$ radians





Example 2: Convert each of the following degree measures to radian measures

a) 225°

$$\begin{aligned} 225^\circ &= 225^\circ \times \frac{\pi}{180} \\ &= \frac{5\pi}{4} \text{ radians} \end{aligned}$$

b) 80°

$$\begin{aligned} 80^\circ &= 80^\circ \times \frac{\pi}{180} \\ &= \frac{4\pi}{9} \text{ radians} \end{aligned}$$

c) 450°

$$\begin{aligned} 450^\circ &= 450^\circ \times \frac{\pi}{180} \\ &= \frac{5\pi}{2} \text{ radians} \end{aligned}$$

Example 3: Convert each of the following radian measures to degree measures

a) $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ radians

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2\pi}{3} \text{ radians} &= \frac{2\pi}{3} \times \frac{180}{\pi} \\ &= 120^\circ \end{aligned}$$

b) $\frac{9\pi}{4}$ radians

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{9\pi}{4} \text{ radians} &= \frac{9\pi}{4} \times \frac{180}{\pi} \\ &= 405^\circ \end{aligned}$$

c) 1 radian

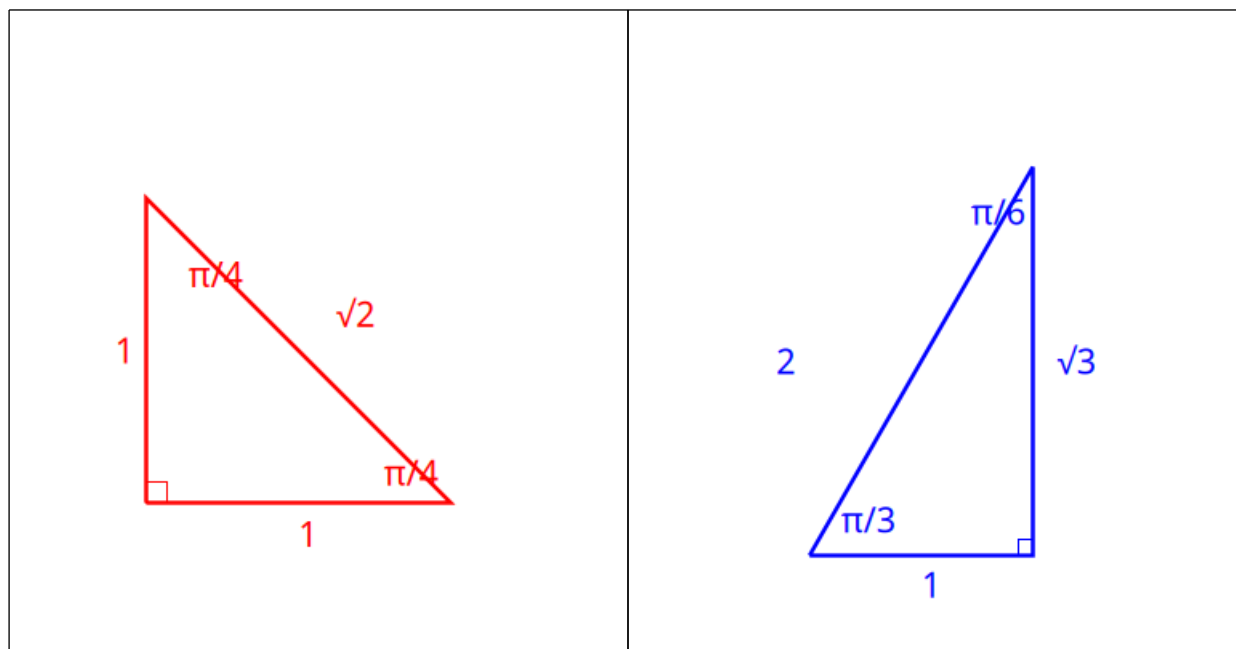
$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ radian} &= 1 \times \frac{180}{\pi} \\ &= 57.296^\circ \end{aligned}$$

Part 3: Application

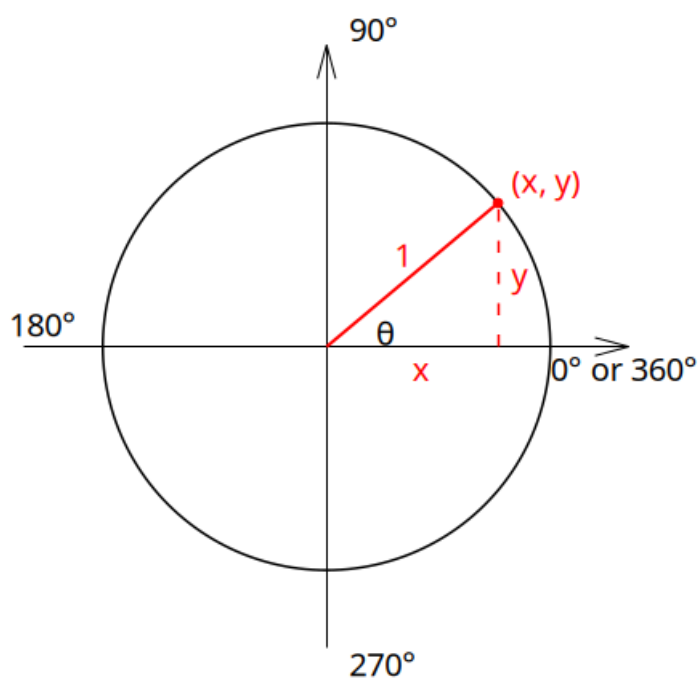
Example 4: Suzette chooses a camel to ride on a carousel. The camel is located 9 m from the center of the carousel. If the carousel turns through an angle of $\frac{5\pi}{6}$, determine the length of the arc travelled by the camel, to the nearest tenth of a meter.

$$\begin{aligned} \theta &= \frac{a}{r} \\ a &= \theta r \\ a &= \frac{5\pi}{6} (9) \\ a &\cong 23.6 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

Part 4: Special Triangles Using Radian Measures



Also, you will need to remember the UNIT CIRCLE, which is a circle that has a radius of 1. Use the unit circle to write expressions for $\sin \theta$, $\cos \theta$, and $\tan \theta$ in terms of x , y , and r .



On the unit circle, the sine and cosine functions take a simple form:

$$\sin \theta = y$$

$$\cos \theta = x$$

The value of $\sin \theta$ is the **y-coordinate** of each point on the unit circle

The value of $\cos \theta$ is the **x-coordinate** of each point on the unit circle

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Therefore, we can use the points where the terminal arm intersects the unit circle to get the sine and cosine ratios just by looking at the x and y co-ordinates of the points.

$$\sin \theta = \frac{y}{r} = \frac{y}{1} = y$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{x}{r} = \frac{x}{1} = x$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x}$$

Example 5: Fill out chart of ratios using special triangles and the unit circle

	$0, 2\pi$	$\frac{\pi}{6}$	$\frac{\pi}{4}$	$\frac{\pi}{3}$	$\frac{\pi}{2}$	π	$\frac{3\pi}{2}$
$\sin x$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	1	0	-1
$\cos x$	1	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	-1	0
$\tan x$	0	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$	1	$\sqrt{3}$	undefined	0	undefined