

Math: Foreign Language -Algebra

The most frequently abused, overused, and misused term in math is the **equals sign**. It should be used as a last resort and only when you mean *exactly the same as*. (See last item on this page for its proper usage). In the meantime, try these other terms to accurately convey your meaning:



Arrow

- implies
- leads to
- approaches
- yields
- if first is true, then second is true



Therefore

- logical consequence
- bottom line conclusion



Similar

- is related to
- like
- general
- is safe to use, usually can't go wrong!

And now for the big finish:



Equals

- identical
- exactly the same as
- quantities are substitutable
- use sparingly and only as a last resort
- could be hazardous to your grade if used incorrectly!

This is a very precise and beautiful sign.

When its integrity and purity are preserved, it works like an open channel (=) that can lead to a crisp, clear finish!