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1

Application Questions - Law of Cosines

Ask yourself...

- 1. What am I given?
- 2. What am I trying to find?



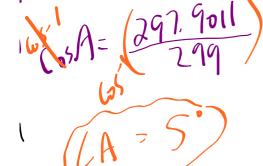
EXAMPLE...

A hockey net is 1.83m wide. A player shoots from a point where the puck is 13m from one goal post and 11.5m from the other. Within what angle must he make his shot to



$$\cos A = \frac{b^2 + c^2 - \alpha^2}{71}$$

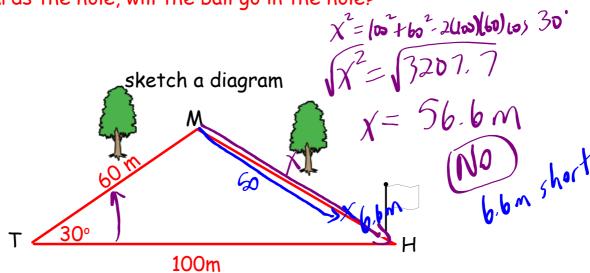
COSA = 13+11.52-1.83



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Example #2:

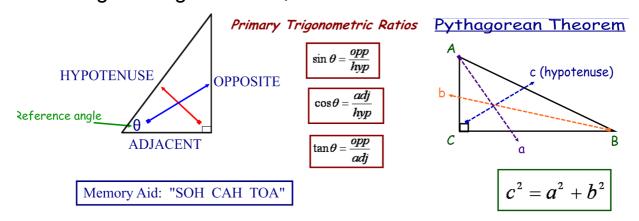
From T, a golfer aims a ball towards the hole at H which is 100m away. But the ball actually sliced in a direction 30° off course and lands at M, 60m away. If the next shot is hit 50 m towards the hole, will the ball go in the hole?



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REVIEW - What formula do I use? Ask yourself...

- Is it a right triangle? If Yes, then...



- If you are finding a side, do you have **SAS**? If Yes, then...

Law of Cosines

$$a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc \cos A$$

- If you are finding an angle, do you have SSS? If Yes, then...

Law of Cosines (rearranged)

$$\cos A = \frac{b^2 + c^2 - a^2}{2bc}$$

- Anything else...use your Law of Sines!

