GOAL

Find possible side lengths of a triangle.

Vocabulary

Theorem 5.10: If one side of a triangle is longer than another side, then the angle opposite the longer side is larger than the angle opposite the shorter side.

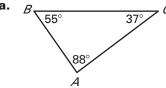
Theorem 5.11: If one angle of a triangle is larger than another angle, then the side opposite the larger angle is longer than the side opposite the smaller side.

Theorem 5.12 Triangle Inequality Theorem: The sum of the lengths of any two sides of a triangle is greater than the length of the third side.

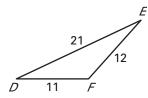
EXAMPLE 1

Write measurements in order from least to greatest

Write the measurements of the triangle in order from least to greatest.



b.



Solution

a.
$$m \angle C < m \angle B < m \angle A$$

 $AB < AC < BC$

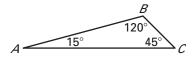
b.
$$m \angle E < m \angle D < m \angle F$$

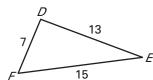
 $DF < EF < DE$

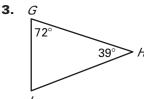
Exercises for Example 1

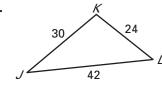
Write the measurements of the triangle in order from least to greatest.

1.









- **5.** A triangle has sides that are about 33, 18, and 24 centimeters long and angles of about 32°, 103°, and 45°. Sketch and label a diagram with the shortest side on the bottom and the largest angle at the left.
- **6.** A right triangle has sides that are 16, 34, and 30 inches long and angles of 90°, about 28°, and about 62°. Sketch and label a diagram with the shortest side on the bottom and the right angle at the left.

EXAMPLE 2

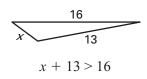
Find possible side lengths

A triangle has one side of length 13 and another side of length 16. Describe the possible lengths of the third side.

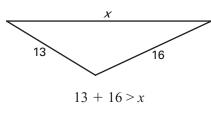
Solution

Let *x* represent the length of the third side. Draw diagrams to help visualize the small and large values of *x*. Then use the Triangle Inequality Theorem to write and solve the inequalities.

Small values of x



Large values of x



$$29 > x$$
, or $x < 29$

The length of the third side must be greater than 3 and less than 29.

Exercises for Example 2

Two sides of a triangle are given. Describe the possible lengths of the third side.

- **7.** 2 centimeters and 5 centimeters
- **8.** 7 inches and 12 inches

9. 4 feet and 10 feet

- **10.** 11 meters and 10 meters
- **11.** 9 inches and 25 inches
- **12.** 1 mile and 8 miles