Key Algebraic Symbols

Symbol	Meaning	Example	Description
=	Equals	$x + 3 = 7$	Shows that two sides are the same in value.
+	Addition	$4 + 2 = 6$	Combines two values or terms.
-	Subtraction	$9 - 5 = 4$	Finds the difference between two values.
× or ·	Multiplication	$3x = 3 \times x$	In algebra, multiplication is often written without a symbol.
÷ or /	Division	$x \div 2 = 5$	Splits a value into equal parts.
( )	Brackets	$2(x + 3)$	Group terms so they're calculated first.
$^2, ^3, ^n$	Powers / Indices	$x^2 = x \times x$	Show repeated multiplication of the same number.
√	Square Root	$\sqrt{9} = 3$	Finds the number that multiplies by itself to give the result.
±	Plus or minus	$x = 5 \pm 2$	Used when there are two possible answers.
<, >, ≤, ≥	Inequalities	$x < 10, y \geq 3$	Show when one value is smaller or larger than another.
≈	Approximately equal to	$\pi \approx 3.14$	Used for rounded or estimated values.

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