

# Algebra Symbols

## Equations & Expressions

$x$  a variable; a letter used to represent a quantity that can change

$|x|$  the absolute value of  $x$ , which is the distance of  $x$  from 0 on a number line

$\frac{1}{x}$  the reciprocal of  $x$  (because  $x$  can also be written as  $\frac{x}{1}$ )

### { [ ( Grouping Symbols ) ] }

- ( ) parentheses To simplify an algebraic expression that uses grouping symbols, start with the innermost set.
- [ ] brackets
- { } braces

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$\neq$  is not equal to

$\approx$  is approximately equal to

< is less than

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