

Notice that “co” represents the complementary angle relationship and the *cofunctions*: sine/cosine, secant/cosecant, and tangent/cotangent.

The complementary angle relationship leads to:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \sin \theta = \cos (90^\circ - \theta) & \cos \theta = \sin (90^\circ - \theta) \\ \sec \theta = \csc (90^\circ - \theta) \quad \text{and} & \csc \theta = \sec (90^\circ - \theta) \\ \tan \theta = \cot (90^\circ - \theta) & \cot \theta = \tan (90^\circ - \theta) \end{array}$$

Example 1

Rewrite each trig function using the cofunction.

$$\sin 39^\circ = \cos (90^\circ - 39^\circ) = \cos 51^\circ$$

Practice Problems 1

1. $\cos 17^\circ =$

2. $\cot 84.1^\circ =$

3. $\cos 68^\circ 15' 40'' =$

4. $\tan 35^\circ =$

5. $\sin 79^\circ 28' =$

6. $\sec 53.32^\circ =$

7. $\sec 42.6^\circ =$

8. $\csc 9^\circ =$

9. $\tan 26^\circ =$

Practice Problems

$$1. \sin(-\theta) \cot(-\theta) = \frac{1}{\sec \theta}$$

$$2. \cos \theta \csc \theta = \cot \theta$$

$$3. \cot(90^\circ - \theta) \cot \theta = 1$$