Trigonometric Functions - Step-by-Step Lesson

Given: Cos $\theta = (4/5)$, Find: Sin θ



Explanation:

adjacent = 4, hypotenuse = 5

Remember the Pythagorean theorem:

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

 $(opposite)^2 + (adjacent)^2 = (hypotenuse)^2$

Plug in what you know.

 $(opposite)^2 + (adjacent)^2 = (hypotenuse)^2$

 $(opposite)^2 + (4)^2 = (5)^2$

 $(opposite)^2 = = (5)^2 - (4)^2$

 $(opposite)^2 = 25 - 16$

Opposite = $\sqrt{9}$

Opposite = 3

Sin θ = opposite/ hypotenuse

Sin $\theta = 3/5$