

DEEP DIVE

COMMON MISTAKES WITH SHAPES

We all can be a little casual when discussing shapes. For example, a ball is technically a “sphere,” not a “circle,” but a child might label a ball a “circle,” especially when looking at it in a picture book or in a photograph.

- **SPHERES VERSUS CIRCLES.** A ball and the moon are three-dimensional spheres, not two-dimensional round circles; however, one can say a “sphere” is shaped like a circle.
- **CUBES.** A cube can be a block, but for it to be a cube, each side of the cube must be shaped like a square.
- **TRIANGLES.** A triangle is a shape with three sides and three angles. The musical instrument, called a triangle, is not a triangle because it doesn’t have three angles (there is an opening). A slice of pizza is not a triangle because it doesn’t have three angles; instead, two corners are rounded. However, both these items can be referred to as “shaped like a triangle.”
- **DIAMOND.** The correct word for a diamond shape is a “rhombus.” A rhombus is a parallelogram; all sides are of equal length, and the opposite angles are also equal.
- **HEARTS AND STARS.** These are shapes, but they are not geometric shapes.

