

Trigonometric identities are mathematical equations that involve trigonometric functions.

Two common trigonometric identities are  $\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1$ , and  $\tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$ .

An example would be simplifying  $\tan^2 x \cos^2 x$ .

$\tan^2 x$  is the same as  $\tan x \times \tan x$ .

$\tan x$  is equal to  $\frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$ , so the equation can be rewritten as  $\frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \times \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \times \cos^2 x$ .

$\frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$  becomes  $\frac{\sin^2 x}{\cos^2 x}$ , so the equation is  $\frac{\sin^2 x}{\cos^2 x} \times \cos^2 x$ .

The final stage is that the  $\cos^2 x$  in the denominator cancels with the other  $\cos^2 x$ , leaving the answer as  $\sin^2 x$ .

Remember that sometimes  $\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1$ , needs to be rearranged to be used in a proof.

$\cos^2 x = 1 - \sin^2 x$  and  $\sin^2 x = 1 - \cos^2 x$ .