***quadratic***

*quadratic* comes from the [Latin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin) word [*quadrātum*](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/en%3Aquadratum#Latin) (“[square](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Square_%28geometry%29)”).

A term like *x*2 is called a [square](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Square_%28algebra%29) in algebra because it is the area of a *square* with side *x*.

In general, a prefix [quadr(i)-](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quadr%28i%29-) indicates the number [4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4_%28number%29).