***quadratic***

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

A term like *x*2 is called a [square](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Square_(algebra)) 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(i)-) indicates the number [4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4_(number)).