5.1 Representing Relations

A set is a collection of distinct objects.

An element of a set is one object in the set.

A relation associates the elements of one set with the elements of another set.

For example: Let's consider the set of fruits associated with the set of colours.

An apple may have the colour red.

element of the first set association element of the second set

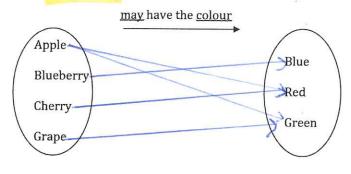
-We can show this relation as a set of ordered pairs:

{(apple, red), (apple, green), (blueberry, blue), (cherry, red), (grape, green)}

-We can also show this relation in a table:

-We can also show this relation in an arrow diagram:

Fruit	Colour	
Apple	Red	
Apple	Green	
Blueberry	Blue	
Cherry	Red	
Grape	Green	



A relation has direction from one set to the other set. The order of the words in the ordered pairs, the columns in the table, and the ovals in the arrow diagram is important. It does not make sense to say "red may have the colour apple". The elements in the sets are listed in some order, if possible.

Ex. 1 For the table to the right:

a) describe the relation in words

Each sport uses the equipment.

- b) represent the relation:
 - i) as a set of ordered pairs
 - ii) as an arrow diagram

Sport	Equipment
Badminton	Birdie
Badminton	Racquet
Hockey	Puck
Hockey	Stick
Soccer	Ball
Tennis	Racquet
Tennis	Ball

i) {(Bad, Bird), (Bad, Ray), (Hockey, Puck), (Hockey, Stick), (Soccer, Bau), (Tennis, K Tennis, Ball)} ii) / Badminton

Badminton 38 Hockey Pr

Birdie Spuck Racquet When the elements of one or both sets in a relation are numbers, the relationship can be represented as a bar graph.

Ex. 2 Consider the relation represented by this bar graph.

Sometimes a relation contains so many ordered pairs that it is impossible to list them all or to represent them in a table.

Ex. 3 In the diagram:

a) Describe the relation in words.

Each english word

Contains this many
Letters

Natural numbers

b) List 2 ordered pairs that belong to the relation. $\{(\text{mathematics}, 11), (\text{fun}, 3)\}$