1-6 Relating Relations

A relation is said to be **reflexive** if for every element *r* in the relation, the ordered pair (r, r) is in the relation. For example, if 3 is an element in a relation, then the relation is reflexive if the ordered pair (3, 3) is in the relation.

A relation is said to be **symmetric** if whenever the ordered pair (r, s) is in the relation, then (s, r) is also in the relation. For example, if (5, 6) is an ordered pair in a relation, then the relation is symmetric if the ordered pair (6, 5) is in the relation.

A relation is said to be **transitive** if whenever the ordered pairs (*r*, *s*) and (s, t) are in the relation, then the ordered pair (r, t) is in the relation. For example, if (3, 7) and (7, 12) are ordered pairs in a relation, then the relation is transitive if the ordered pair (3, 12) is in the relation.

Any relation that has all 3 properties is called an **equivalence relation**.

The following relations are described in words. Use these relations for Exercises 1–4.

V is a set of ordered pairs such that each first element is a factor of each second element, and every element in the relation is a whole number.

W is a set of ordered pairs such that each first element is congruent to each second element, and every element in the relation is a geometric figure.

X is a set of ordered pairs such that each first element is a multiple of each second element, and every element in the relation is a whole number.

Y is a set of ordered pairs such that each first element is greater than each second element, and every element in the relation is a whole number.

Z is a set of ordered pairs such that each first element is similar to each second element, and every element in the relation is a geometric figure.

- 1. Which of the relations are reflexive? Explain why the other relations are not reflexive.
- 2. Which of the relations are symmetric? Explain why the other relations are not symmetric.
- 3. Which of the relations are transitive? Explain why the other relations are not transitive.

4. Which, if any, of the relations are equivalence relations?

