## Lesson 5 Solving Problems with Two Right Triangles

## Recall:

Angle of Elevation (inside the


> The angle of elevation is the angle formed by the line of sight and the horizontal plane for an object above the horizontal.

## Angle of Depression



The angle of depression is the angle formed by the line of sight and the horizontal plane for an object below the horizontal.

## Angle of Elevation = Angle of Depression



Example 1
Determine the length of CD correct to 3 decimal places.

(1) Use $\triangle A B D$ to calculate the length of side $B D$ (common side)

SSH CAM TVA

$$
\sin 47^{\circ}=\frac{4.2}{B D}
$$

$B D \sin 47^{\circ}=4.2$

$$
B D=\frac{4.2}{\sin 47^{\circ}}
$$

$B D=5.74277 \ldots$
(2) Determine the length of CD

SOHCAH TOM

$$
\begin{aligned}
\cos 26^{\circ} & =\frac{C D}{B D}+\text { recalled answer }(5,74277 \ldots) \\
5.74277 \ldots\left(\cos 26^{\circ}\right) & =C D \\
5.162 \mathrm{~cm} & =C D
\end{aligned}
$$

## Example 2

A surveyor stands at a window on the $9^{\text {th }}$ floor of an office tower. He uses a clinometer to measure the angles of elevation and depression of the top and the base of a taller building. The surveyor sketches the following plan of his measurements. Determine the height of the taller building to the nearest tenth of a metre.

, SOL CAM TOB
(1)

Common side

$$
\tan 42^{\circ}=\frac{39}{y}
$$

$$
y \tan 42^{\circ}=39
$$

$$
y=\frac{39}{\tan 42^{\circ}}
$$

$$
y=43.3138 \ldots
$$

(2) Calculate $x$

$$
\begin{aligned}
\tan \underbrace{31^{\circ}}_{\text {milt }} & =\frac{x}{43.3138 \ldots} \\
x & =26.025 \ldots \\
\text { height } & =39+x \\
& =65.0 \mathrm{~m}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Example 3

A police airplane, flying at an altitude of 800 m , spots a speeding vehicle at an angle of depression of $52^{\circ}$. If a roadblock is set up along the same highway at an angle of depression of $23^{\circ}$, determine the distance the vehicle is from the roadblock to the nearest hundredth of a kilometer.


