

**Hamilton William, 1805-1865,**  
**Irish mathematician,**  
**mechanic.**

**In 3 years he knew  
arithmetic, geography and  
knew how to read. In 13  
years, he knew 12 languages.**

Often the following entry is used to denote a gradient:

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$$\text{grad}(u) = \nabla u,$$

where letter “nabla” means the **Hamilton operator** :

$$\nabla \dots = \frac{\partial \dots}{\partial x} \bar{i} + \frac{\partial \dots}{\partial y} \bar{j} + \frac{\partial \dots}{\partial z} \bar{k}.$$