**complement**

The set of elements that are **not** in a specified set.

**Notes**

- In set theory, the *complement* of set \( A \) refers to all elements not in set \( A \).
- In SNOMED CT, the *complement* of a *subset* of concepts consists of all concepts that are not in that subset.

**Example**

- The following expression **constraint language** defines the set of concepts that are **subtypes** of 442083009 *Anatomical or acquired body structure* that are also part of the *complement* of the 723264001 *Lateralizable body structure reference set*. The "MINUS" instruction excludes members of the reference set, so only concepts that are part of the *complement* of that set are included.

```plaintext
< 442083009 | Anatomical or acquired body structure |
MINUS ^ 723264001 | Lateralizable body structure reference set |
```

**Related Links**

- [Intersection](#)
- [Union](#)
- [Wikipedia](#)
  - [Complement (set theory)](#)