

Function Notation  
3.3

You know that a linear function can be written in the form  $y = mx + b$ . By naming a linear function  $f$ , you can also write the function using function notation.

$$f(x) = mx + b$$

The notation  $f(x)$ , pronounced "f of x", is another name for y. If  $f$  is a function, and  $x$  is in its domain, then  $f(x)$  represents the output of  $f$  corresponding to the input  $x$ .

Example 1: Evaluating a Function *replace the x's in the equation with the given value*

Evaluate the function  $f(x) = -4x + 7$  when  $x = 2$  and  $x = -2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} f(2) &= -4(2) + 7 \\ &= -8 + 7 \end{aligned}$$

$f(2) = -1$  as an ordered pair  $(2, -1)$

$$\begin{aligned} f(-2) &= -4(-2) + 7 \\ &= 8 + 7 \end{aligned}$$

$$f(-2) = 15$$

$(-2, 15)$

Example 2: Interpreting Function Notation

Let  $f(t)$  be the outside temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ )  $t$  hours after 6 A.M. Explain the meaning of each statement.

a.  $f(0) = 58$

0 hours after 6 AM  
so the temp at 6 AM  
is  $58^{\circ}\text{F}$

b.  $f(6) = n$

6 hours after 6 AM  
so at Noon the  
temp is  $n^{\circ}\text{F}$

c.  $f(3) < f(9)$

the temp 3  
hours after 6 AM  
is less than the  
temp @ 9 hours  
after  
temp @ 9 AM is less  
than the temp  
@ 3 PM

Example 3: Solving for the Independent Variable

For  $h(x) = \frac{2}{3}x - 5$ , find the value of  $x$  for which  $h(x) = -7$ .

$$\begin{aligned} -7 &= \frac{2}{3}x - 5 \\ +5 & \quad \quad +5 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{3}{2}(-2) = \left(\frac{2}{3}x\right) \frac{3}{2}$$

$$\boxed{-3 = x}$$

$$h(-3) = -7$$

as an ordered pair

$(-3, -7)$

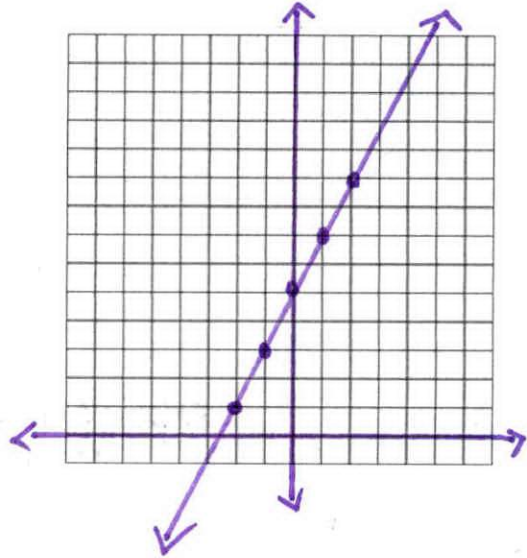


Example 4: Graphing a Linear Function

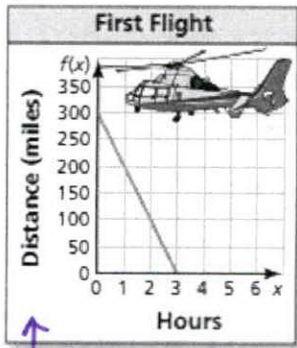
Graph  $f(x) = 2x + 5$

input values for  $x$  to find  $f(x)$

$x$	$2x + 5$	$f(x)$
-2	$2(-2) + 5$	1
-1	$2(-1) + 5$	3
0	$2(0) + 5$	5
1	$2(1) + 5$	7
2	$2(2) + 5$	9



Example 5: Modeling with Mathematics

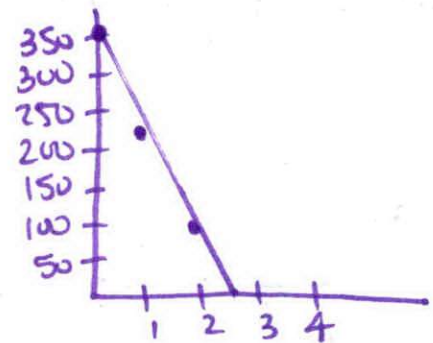


The graph shows the number of miles a helicopter is from its destination after  $x$  hours on its first flight. On its second flight, the helicopter travels 50 miles farther and increases its speed by 25 miles per hour. The function  $f(x) = 350 - 125x$  represents the second flight, where  $f(x)$  is the number of miles the helicopter is from its destination after  $x$  hours. Which flight takes less time? Explain.

we want to compare distance based on the same input values then determine the total time of the flight

input 0, 1, 2, 3

$x$	$350 - 125x$	$f(x)$
0	$350 - 125(0)$	350
1	$350 - 125(1)$	225
2	$350 - 125(2)$	100
3	$350 - 125(3)$	-25



the 2nd flight takes 2.8 hrs which is shorter than 3 hours

$$f(x) = 350 - 125x$$

$$0 = 350 - 125x$$

$$-350 \quad -350$$

Homework: pg 111: 4-26 even, 33-35

$$\frac{-350}{-125} = \frac{-125x}{-125}$$



$$x = 2.8$$