

Worksheet 4-6: Finding Equation of a Line

We can find the equation of any line **by finding the slope and y-intercept**. Then the equation of the line can be written in slope-intercept form, $y = mx + b$.

Part 1: Determine Linear Equations when Slope and y-Intercept are given.

How: Substitute m and b into the form $y = mx + b$

(a) $m = -5, b = \frac{1}{2}$

(b) $m = -1, b = 0$

(c) $m = \frac{1}{2}, b = -5$

(d) $m = -0.77, b = 0.9$

Part 2: Determine Linear Equations when Slope and One Point are given.

How: Substitute slope and (x, y) of the given point into $y = mx + b$ to find b .

(a) Find the equation of the line that passes through $(-1, 6)$ with slope 5.

$$x = \quad y = \quad m = \quad b =$$

(b) Find the equation of the line that passes through $(3, -3)$ with slope -2 .

$$x = \quad y = \quad m = \quad b =$$

(c) Find the equation of the line with slope 4 and x -intercept 2.

$$x = \quad y = \quad m = \quad b =$$

Part 3: Determine Linear Equations when Two Points are given.**Steps:**

1. Find the slope using $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ or identify the slope if it is given.
2. Find the y-intercept, b , by substituting the (x, y) of one given point and the slope into $y = mx + b$ and solve for b .
3. Write the equation using the values for m from step 1 and b from step 2.

(a) Find the equation of the line that passes through the points $(1, -2)$ and $(4, 7)$.

$$x = \quad y = \quad m = \quad b =$$

Step 1: Slope

Step 2: y-Intercept

Step 3: Equation

(b) Find the equation of the line that passes through the points $(-6, -2)$ and $(4, 3)$.

$$x = \quad y = \quad m = \quad b =$$

Step 1: Slope

Step 2: y-Intercept

Step 3: Equation

Part 4: Determine Linear Equations when One Point and One Intercept are given.

1. State the (x, y) of the given intercept. [Hint: x -intercept at $(a, 0)$ and y -intercept at $(0, b)$]
 2. Find the slope using $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ or identify the slope if it is given.
 3. Find the y -intercept, b , by substituting the (x, y) of one given point and the slope into $y = mx + b$ and solve for b .
 4. Write the equation using the values for m from step 1 and b from step 2.
- (a) Find the equation of the line that passes through $(2, 1)$ with y -intercept -3 .
- $x =$ $y =$ $m =$ $b =$

*Step 1: Slope**Step 2: y-Intercept**Step 3: Equation*

- (b) Find the equation of the line that passes through $(2, -1)$ with x -intercept 4 .
- $x =$ $y =$ $m =$ $b =$

*Step 1: Slope**Step 2: y-Intercept**Step 3: Equation*

(c) Find the equation of the line with y -intercept 3, and x -intercept -2 .

$$x = \quad y = \quad m = \quad b =$$

Step 1: Slope

Step 2: y-Intercept

Step 3: Equation

Part 5: Determine Linear Equations when Slope of Another Line is given.

- Parallel lines have the **same slope**.
- Equations for vertical lines: $x = a$ whereas equations for horizontal lines: $y = b$.

(a) Find the equation of the line that is parallel to $y = -2x + 3$ and passes through $(-2, -1)$.

$$x = \quad y = \quad m = \quad b =$$

Step 1: Slope

Step 2: y-Intercept

Step 3: Equation

(b) Find the equation of the line that is parallel to $y = 5x - 3$ and passes through $(-3, 4)$.

$x =$ $y =$ $m =$ $b =$

Step 1: Slope

Step 2: y-Intercept

Step 3: Equation

(c) Find the equation of the line that is parallel to $x = 3$ and passes through $(-4, 3)$.

(d) Find the equation of the line that is parallel to $y = 2$ and passes through $(2, 5)$.

(e) Find the equation of the line that is parallel to $y = 4$ and passes through $(1, 3)$.

(f) Find the equation of the line that is parallel to $x = -1$ and passes through $(-2, -3)$.

Part 6: Determine Linear Equations When Equations of Other Lines are Given.

1. Identify the slope and y-intercept from the given equations.
2. Use given relationship to determine the required linear equations.

(a) Write the equation of a line that is steeper than $y = 2x$.

(b) Write the equation of a line that is less steep than $y = -x$.

(c) Write the equation of a line that is steeper than $y = -4.5x + 2.5$.

(d) Write the equation of a line that is less steep than $y = 5000 + 8.5x$.

(e) Write the equation of a line that is steeper than $y = -8 + 3x$

Answers:

1. (a) $y = -5x + \frac{1}{2}$, (b) $y = -x$, (c) $y = \frac{1}{2}x - 5$, (d) $y = -0.77x + 0.9$;

2. (a) $y = 5x + 11$, (b) $y = -2x + 3$, (c) $y = 4x - 8$;

3. (a) $y = 3x - 5$, (b) $y = \frac{1}{2}x + 1$;

4. (a) $y = 2x - 3$, (b) $y = \frac{1}{2}x - 2$, (c) $y = \frac{3}{2}x + 3$;

5. (a) $y = -2x - 5$, (b) $y = 5x + 19$; (c) $x = -4$, (d) $y = 5$, (e) $y = 3$, (f) $x = -2$;

6. (a) $m > |2|$, (b) $m < |1|$, (c) $m > |4.5|$, (d) $m < |8.5|$, (e) $m > 3$