

Definitions:

- **Slope:** of a line tells how fast y changes for each unit of change in x .
- **Linear equation in two variables:** is an equation that can be written as

$$ax + by = c$$

where a , b , and c are real numbers and a and b cannot both be zero.

Important Formulas:

- **Slope formula:** The slope of the line through the points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) is given by

$$m = \frac{y_1 - y_2}{x_1 - x_2} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{\text{change in } y}{\text{change in } x} = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}}$$

Note that it does not matter if you start with y_1 or y_2 . However, you must start with its corresponding x in the denominator.

- **Slope-intercept form:** The slope-intercept form of an equation with slope m and y -intercept b is given by

$$y = mx + b.$$

- **Point-slope formula:** The equation of the line with slope m and passing through (x_1, y_1) can be found using

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1).$$

Common Mistakes to Avoid:

- When identifying the slope and y -intercept using the slope-intercept form, remember to divide each term by the coefficient on y . The slope and y -intercept can only be identified once you have isolated y .
- Remember that the change in y is in the numerator of the slope formula. DO NOT place it in the denominator.

PROBLEMS

1. Identify the slope and the y -intercept of each line.

(a) $3x - 2y = 6$

$$3x - 2y = 6$$

$$-2y = -3x + 6$$

$$y = \frac{3}{2}x - 3$$

$$m = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$y - \text{intercept} = (0, -3)$$

(b) $5x + 10y = -3$

$$5x + 10y = -3$$

$$10y = -5x - 3$$

$$y = -\frac{5}{10}x - \frac{3}{10}$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}x - \frac{3}{10}$$

$$m = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$y - \text{intercept} = \left(0, -\frac{3}{10}\right)$$

2. Find the slope of the line passing through $(-1, 3)$ and $(5, -2)$.

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

$$m = \frac{-2 - 3}{5 - (-1)}$$

$$m = -\frac{5}{6}$$

$$m = -\frac{5}{6}$$

3. Find the slope of the line passing through $(-9, 2)$ and $(-5, 5)$.

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

$$m = \frac{5 - 2}{-5 - (-9)}$$

$$m = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$m = \frac{3}{4}$$

4. Find the equation of the line with slope $m = -3$ and passes through $(5, -2)$.

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

$$y - (-2) = -3(x - 5)$$

$$y + 2 = -3x + 15$$

$$y = -3x + 13$$

$$y = -3x + 13$$

5. Find the equation of the line with $m = \frac{3}{4}$ and passing through $(-1, 2)$.

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

$$y - 2 = \frac{3}{4}(x - (-1))$$

$$y - 2 = \frac{3}{4}x + \frac{3}{4}$$

$$y = \frac{3}{4}x + \frac{11}{4}$$

$$\boxed{y = \frac{3}{4}x + \frac{11}{4}}$$

6. Find the equation of the line passing through $(-2, 3)$ and $(4, -5)$.

NOTE: First, we must find the slope of the line.

$$m = \frac{-5 - 3}{4 - (-2)} = \frac{-8}{6} = \frac{-4}{3}$$

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

$$y - 3 = -\frac{4}{3}(x - (-2))$$

$$y - 3 = -\frac{4}{3}x - \frac{8}{3}$$

$$y = \frac{4}{3}x + \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\boxed{y = \frac{4}{3}x + \frac{1}{3}}$$

7. Find the equation of the line passing through $(-7, 2)$ and has a y -intercept at 3.

NOTE: First, we must find the slope of the line. Remember that a y -intercept at 3 translates to the ordered pair $(0, 3)$.

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{2 - 3}{-7 - 0} = \frac{-1}{-7} = \frac{1}{7}$$

$$y = mx + b$$

$$y = \frac{1}{7}x + 3$$

$$\boxed{y = \frac{1}{7}x + 3}$$

8. Find the equation of the line which has an x -intercept at -2 and a y -intercept at 4.

NOTE: This means that the line passes through $(-2, 0)$ and $(0, 4)$.

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{4 - 0}{0 - (-2)} = \frac{4}{2} = 2$$

$$y = mx + b$$

$$y = 2x + 4$$

$$\boxed{y = 2x + 4}$$

9. Find the equation of the line passing through $(-7, 2)$ and has an x -intercept at 3.

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{2 - 0}{-7 - 3} = \frac{2}{-10} = -\frac{1}{5}$$

$$y - 0 = -\frac{1}{5}(x - 3)$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{5}x + \frac{3}{5}$$

$$\boxed{y = -\frac{1}{5}x + \frac{3}{5}}$$