

6.6 General Form of the Equation for a Linear Function

General Form of the Equation of a Linear Relation

$$Ax + By + C = 0$$

is the general form of the equation of a line,
where A is a whole, positive number, and B and C are integers.

No fractions!

Example 1: Write each equation in general form.

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

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

$$3y = -2x + 12$$

$$+2x \quad +2x \quad -12$$

$$-12$$

$$2x + 3y - 12 = 0$$

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

$$2(y + 2) = \cancel{2} \left[\frac{3}{\cancel{2}}(x - 4) \right]$$

$$2(y + 2) = 3(x - 4)$$

$$2y + 4 = 3x - 12$$

$$-2y \quad -4 \quad -2y \quad -4$$

$$0 = 3x - 2y - 16$$

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

① get rid of fractions by multiplying by denominator

② move all terms to one side so "x" term is positive.

$$4y = 4\left(\frac{1}{4}x\right) + 4(3)$$

$$4y = x + 12$$

$$-4y \quad -4y$$

$$0 = x - 4y + 12$$

d) $y - 1 = \frac{3}{5}(x + 2)$

$$5(y - 1) = \cancel{5} \left[\frac{3}{\cancel{5}}(x + 2) \right]$$

$$5(y - 1) = 3(x + 2)$$

$$5y - 5 = 3x + 6$$

$$-5y + 5 \quad -5y + 5$$

$$0 = 3x - 5y + 11$$

Example 2: Graph the line whose equation is $3x + 2y - 18 = 0$ by finding the x - and y - intercepts of the line.

Determine the x - intercept:

$3x + 2(0) - 18 = 0$ $y = 0$

$3x - 18 = 0$ $3x = 18$ $x = 6$

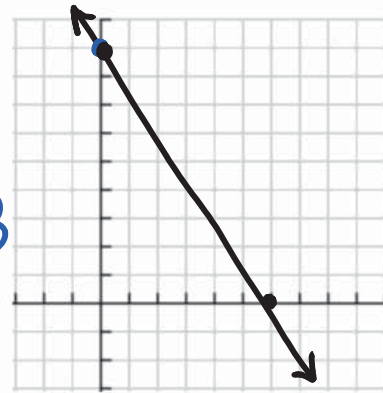
$+18$ $+18$ $\frac{3}{3}$ $\frac{18}{3}$

Determine the y - intercept:

$3(0) + 2y - 18 = 0$ $x = 0$

$2y - 18 = 0$ $2y = 18$ $y = 9$

$+18$ $+18$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{18}{2}$



Example 3: Determine the slope of a line with the equation: $3x - 2y - 16 = 0$

$3x - 2y - 16 = 0$

$-3x$ $+16$ $-3x + 16$

$\frac{-2y}{-2} = \frac{-3x + 16}{-2}$

$y = \frac{3}{2}x - 8$

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

↳ must rewrite in slope-intercept form ($y = mx + b$)

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|----------------------|------------------------|
| Standard Form | $Ax + By = C$ |
| General Form | $Ax + By + C = 0$ |
| Slope-Intercept Form | $y = mx + b$ |
| Slope-Point Form | $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$ |

Practice: p. 84 #4-8, 12-14, 18
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