

EXAMPLE 3

Environmental Science Application
The graph shows how much water is in a container at different times. Find the slope of the line. Then tell what the slope represents.

Step 1 Use the slope formula.

$$\begin{aligned} m &= \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} \\ &= \frac{2000 - 0}{20 - 0} \\ &= \frac{2000}{20} = 100 \end{aligned}$$

Step 2 Tell what the slope represents.

In this situation, a representative volume of water used is a representative value in the situation. Interpretation: In units of thousands of cubic feet, water is used at a rate of 10 thousand cubic feet per hour in the greenhouse in decreasing proportion to a rate of 10 thousand cubic feet per hour.



4. The graph shows the height of a plant over a period of days. Find the slope of the line. Then tell what the slope represents.



If you know the equation that describes a line, you can find its slope by using any two ordered pairs on the line. It is often easier to use the ordered pairs that contain the intercepts.

EXAMPLE 4

Finding Slope from an Equation

Find the slope of the line described by $4x - 3y = 30$.

Step 1 Find the x -intercept.

$$4x - 3y = 30$$

$$4x - 3(0) = 30 \quad \text{Let } y = 0.$$

$$4x = 30$$

$$\frac{4x}{4} = \frac{30}{4}$$

$$x = \frac{15}{2}$$

$$x = 7.5$$

Step 2 Find the y -intercept.

$$4x - 3y = 30$$

$$4(0) - 3y = 30 \quad \text{Let } x = 0.$$

$$-3y = 30$$

$$\frac{-3y}{-3} = \frac{30}{-3}$$

$$y = -10$$

$$y = -10$$

Step 3 The line contains $(7.5, 0)$ and $(0, -10)$. Use the slope formula.

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{-10 - 0}{0 - 7.5} = \frac{-10}{-7.5} = \frac{4}{3}$$



4. Find the slope of the line described by $2x + 3y = 12$.

THINK AND DISCUSS

- The slope of a line is the difference of the y -values divided by the difference of the x -values for any two points on the line.
- Two points lie on a line. When you substitute their coordinates into the slope formula, the value of the denominator is 0. Describe this line.
- GET ORGANIZED** Copy and complete the graphic organizer. In each box, describe how to find slope using the given method.

Finding Slope

Graph

Equation

Intercept

4-4

Exercises

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GUIDED PRACTICE

SEE EXAMPLE 3

Find the slope of the line that contains each pair of points.

1. $(1, 4)$ and $(5, 9)$

2. $(2, 7)$ and $(8, 4)$

3. $(-1, -3)$ and $(-9, -7)$

SEE EXAMPLE 3

Each graph or table shows a linear relationship. Find the slope.



x	y
0	25
2	45
4	65
6	85

SEE EXAMPLE 3

Find the slope of each line. Then tell what the slope represents.



SEE EXAMPLE 4

Find the slope of the line described by each equation.

1. $8x + 2y = 50$

2. $5x = 50 - 3y$

3. $3y = 150 + 9x$

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B Lingard



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1. Understanding the eBook Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47

- Personalized Recommendations
 - Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47 User Reviews and Ratings
 - Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47 and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47 Free and Paid eBooks
 - Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47 Public Domain eBooks
 - Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47 eBook Subscription Services
 - Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47 Budget-Friendly Options
 6. Navigating Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47 eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47 Compatibility with Devices
 - Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47 Enhanced eBook Features
 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 - Interactive Elements Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 8. Staying Engaged with Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 - Setting Reading Goals Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47

- Fact-Checking eBook Content of Holt Algebra 1 Skill 47
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
- Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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