Cartesian Coordinate System - Plotting Ordered Pairs

Vocabulary

Cartesian Coordinate System	System using a set of numbers, or coordinates, to uniquely determine the	
	position of a point	
x-axis	Horizontal number line through the center of the coordinate system	
y-axis	Vertical number line through the center of the coordinate system	
Origin (0,0)	Point of intersection of the x-axis and y-axis	
Ordered pair (x,y)	Point on the coordinate system	
Quadrants	Four sections of the Cartesian coordinate system	



In Quadrant I, the x-coordinate is positive and the y-coordinate is positive.	(+, +)
In Quadrant II, the x-coordinate is negative and the y-coordinate is positive.	(-,+)
In Quadrant III, the x-coordinate is negative and the y-coordinate is negative.	(-, -)
In Quadrant IV, the x-coordinate is positive and the y-coordinate is negative.	(+, -)



To plot the 'x' value, from the origin, the (0,0) position, move along the horizontal number line or axis, the appropriate number of units going left for a negative number or going right for a positive number.

To plot the 'y' value, from the origin, the (0,0) position, move along the vertical axis, the appropriate number of units going down for a negative number or going up for a positive number.

Given the ordered pair, (3, 5), the numbers 3 and 5 are the coordinates of the point. The first coordinate, 3, is the x-coordinate. The second coordinate, 5, is the y-coordinate. Points are usually named by capital letters: Q(3,5) meaning point Q is at (3,5). Points on the axes themselves do not belong to any quadrant.

 Where would one plot the following points?

 A(4,2)
 B(4,-3)
 C(-5, 5)
 D(-5,-3)

 E(-4,3)
 F(0,3)
 G(-2,0)
 H(2,4)
 J(0,-2)



NOTE: The <u>point</u> (4,7) is written the same way as one would write the <u>interval</u> on the number line from 4 to 7. Therefore, the meaning of (4,7) is always taken from the **context** in which it is used.



TRY: What are the ordered pairs represented by

Р	Q
R	S

In what Quadrant is Point R?

On what axis is Point Q?



TRY:

Plot the points

P (-2, 5) Q (-1, 4)

R (0,3) S (1,2)

Can you give the coordinates of another Point with the same property?

T(,) Plot it.



Ordered pairs can help one graph the values associated with situations involving two variables. Consider the problem:

The Cheap Phone Plan charges a monthly base rate of \$4.50 plus \$0.10 for each minute of long distance calling during the month.

The total monthly long distance charge could be represented by the equation: L = .10n + 4.50 where L is the total long distance charge and n is the number of long distance minutes during the month.

What if one wanted to know the following?

If the total long distance charge is \$11.50, find the number of long distance minutes used. If the total number of long distance minutes is 35, find the total long distance bill.

Plotting some values on a graph can help discover the 'line' that represents all the points (the total charges) for this problem.

Ν	L	
20	6.50	
40	8.50	
60	10.60	and so on

This graph shows the ordered pairs from the table. The y-axis (charges) is marked in \$2 increments. The x-axis (minutes) is marked in 20 minute increments.

- a) Find *n* if the long distance charge is \$11.50.
- b) Find L for 35 minutes.

It is always important to label the units represented by each mark on the coordinate system. Typically, each mark represents 1 unit. Sometimes, as in the previous example, one



labels the graph with larger units and uses units for the x-axis different than the units for the y-axis.