

Slope-Intercept Form

The slope-intercept form of the equation of a non-vertical line is written as:

$$y = mx + b \text{ where } m \text{ is the slope and the point } (0, b) \text{ is the y-intercept.}$$

For Slope-Intercept form, be sure the coefficient for the y, if present, is positive 1.

Consider the equation: $y = \frac{2}{3}x + 4$

This equation has a slope of $\frac{2}{3}$ and intercepts the y-axis at (0, 4).

If the slope and the y-intercept are known, one can easily write the equation of the line in Slope-Intercept form.

Given: L has slope 4 and y-intercept (0, -2)

Write the equation of the line in slope-intercept form.

$$y = mx + b \text{ where } m \text{ is the slope, 4, and the point } (0, b) \text{ is the y-intercept } (0, -2).$$

So b in this example is -2.

$$\text{The equation would be: } y = 4x - 2$$

Given: L has slope $-\frac{2}{3}$ and passes through (0,3)

Write the equation in slope-intercept form.

The point given is a y-intercept since it is in the form (0,3).

$$\text{Therefore the equation would be: } y = -\frac{2}{3}x + 3$$

TRY:

Given the point (0,-1) and slope 3, write the equation in slope-intercept form.

Sometimes an equation in non slope-intercept form is given and one must rewrite the equation first to be able to identify the slope and y-intercept.

$5x + 3y = 15$ $3y = -5x + 15$ $\frac{3}{3}y = -\frac{5}{3}x + \frac{15}{3}$ $y = -\frac{5}{3}x + 5$ $m = -\frac{5}{3} \quad \text{y-intercept} = (0,5)$	$y - 4 = 0$ $y = 4$ <p>Could be thought of as:</p> $y = 0x + 4$ $m = 0 \quad \text{y-intercept} = (0,4)$ <p>The form: $y = 4$ is acceptable, but is not as easy to see the slope.</p>	$\frac{y+1}{x+4} = \frac{3}{2}$ $2(y+1) = 3(x+4) \text{ use what you know about proportions}$ $2y + 2 = 3x + 12$ $2y = 3x + 10$ $y = \frac{3}{2}x + 5$ $m = \frac{3}{2} \quad \text{y-intercept} = (0,5)$
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Use this information and graph the lines.

$5x + 3y = 15$ $y = -\frac{5}{3}x + 5$ $m = -\frac{5}{3} \quad \text{y-intercept} = (0,5)$	$y - 4 = 0$ $y = 0x + 4$ $m = 0 \quad \text{y-intercept} = (0,4)$	$\frac{y+1}{x+4} = \frac{3}{2}$ $y = \frac{3}{2}x + 5$ $m = \frac{3}{2} \quad \text{y-intercept} = (0,5)$

In the last example, the graph was not big enough to go up 3 and over 2 from the point (0,5). One can either think of each block as 2 units OR one can think in reverse and go down 3 and back 2.