Slope-Intercept Form

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

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

So b in this example is -2.

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).

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.

$$5x+3y=15$$

$$3y = -5x+15$$

$$\frac{3}{3}y = -\frac{5}{3}x + \frac{15}{3}$$

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

$$m = -\frac{5}{3} \quad \text{y-intercept} = (0,5)$$

$$y-4=0$$

$$y=4$$
Could be thought of as:
$$y=0x+4$$

$$m=0$$
 y-intercept = (0,4)

The form: y = 4 is acceptable, but is not as easy to see the slope.

$$\frac{y+1}{x+4} = \frac{3}{2}$$

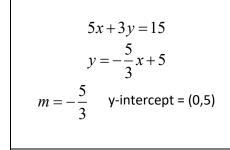
$$2(y+1) = 3(x+4) \text{ use what you}$$
know about proportions
$$2y+2 = 3x+12$$

$$2y = 3x+10$$

$$y = \frac{3}{2}x+5$$

$$m = \frac{3}{2} \text{ y-intercept} = (0,5)$$

Use this information and graph the lines.

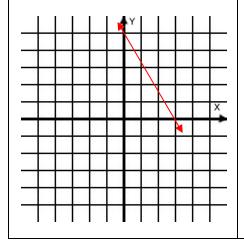


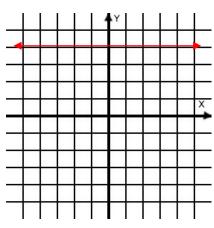
$$y-4=0$$
$$y=0x+4$$
$$m=0 y-intercept=(0,4)$$

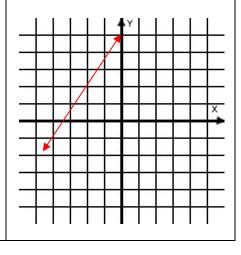
$$\frac{y+1}{x+4} = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$y = \frac{3}{2}x+5$$

$$m = \frac{3}{2} \text{ y-intercept} = (0,5)$$







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.

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