

Chapter 9 – Finding Equations of Linear Models  
Section 1 – Using Two Points to Find an Equation of a Line

Objectives

1. Find an equation of a line by using the slope-intercept form of a linear equation.
2. Find an equation of a line by using the point-slope form of a linear equation.

Vocabulary

1. point-slope form

Lesson/Activity

OBJECTIVE 1 – Find an equation of a line by using the slope-intercept form of a linear equation.

Recall that an equation of a line can be put in slope-intercept form  $y = mx + b$  (Section 7.1).

**Finding an Equation of a Line by Using the Slope, a Point, and the Slope-Intercept Form**

To find an equation of a line by using the slope and a point,

1. Substitute the given value of the slope  $m$  into the equation  $y = mx + b$ .
2. Substitute the coordinates of the given point into the equation you found in step 1 and solve for  $b$ .
3. Substitute the value of  $b$  you found in step 2 into the equation you found in step 1.
4. Check that the graph of your equation contains the given point.

Use the slope-intercept form to find an equation of the line that has the given slope and contains the given point.

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|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. $m = 3, (-4, 5)$    | 2. $m = -2, (-3, -6)$ | 3. $m = 2/5, (-3, 4)$          |
| 4. $m = -4/3, (5, -2)$ | 5. $m = 0, (-3, 2)$   | 6. $m$ is undefined, $(-5, 1)$ |

**Finding an Equation of a Line by Using Two Points and the Slope-Intercept Form**

To find an equation of the line that passes through two given points whose x-coordinates are different,

1. Use the formula  $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$  to find the slope of the line containing the two points.
2. Substitute the  $m$  value you found in step 1 into the equation  $y = mx + b$ .
3. Substitute the coordinates of one of the given points into the equation you found in step 2 and solve for  $b$ .
4. Substitute the  $b$  value you found in step 3 into your equation you found in step 2.
5. Check that the graph of your equation contains the two given points.

Use the slope-intercept form to find an equation of the line that contains the two given points.

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7. $(2, 3)$ and $(4, 7)$   | 8. $(-3, 4)$ and $(2, -6)$    |
| 9. $(-5, -3)$ and $(2, 1)$ | 10. $(-6, -2)$ and $(-3, -7)$ |
11. Find an approximate equation of the line that contains the points  $(-3.25, 8.11)$  and  $(2.67, -1.39)$ . Round the slope and the constant term to two decimal places.

