Answer Keys
8-1 Additional Vocabulary Support
Inverse Variation

Choose the expression from the list that best matches each sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>combined variation</th>
<th>constant of variation</th>
<th>inverse variation</th>
<th>joint variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. equations of the form $xy = k$  inverse variation
2. when one quantity varies with respect to two or more quantities  combined variation
3. when one quantity varies directly with two or more quantities  joint variation
4. the product of two variables in an inverse variation  constant of variation

Choose the expression from the list that best matches each sentence.

5. When one quantity increases and the other quantity decreases proportionally, the relationship is an inverse variation.

6. The function $z = kxy$ is an example of a joint variation.

7. The constant of variation is represented by the variable $k$.

8. Both functions $z = \frac{kx}{xy}$ and $z = kxy$ are examples of combined variation.

Multiple Choice

9. Which function would be used to model the relationship “$x$ and $y$ vary inversely”?  
   C  
   A  $y = kx$  B  $z = kxy$  C  $y = \frac{k}{x}$  D  $y = \frac{x}{k}$

10. Which function would be used to model the relationship “$z$ varies jointly with $x$ and $y$”?  
    G  
    A  $y = kxz$  B  $z = kxy$  C  $y = \frac{k}{xz}$  D  $y = \frac{xyz}{k}$
The flowchart below shows how to decide whether a relationship between two variables is a direct variation, inverse variation, or neither.

Do the data in the table represent a direct variation, inverse variation, or neither?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the value of x increases, the value of y decreases, so test the table values in the inverse variation model: \(xy = k\): 
- \(1 \cdot 20 = 20\), 
- \(2 \cdot 10 = 20\), 
- \(4 \cdot 5 = 20\), 
- \(5 \cdot 4 = 20\). Each product equals the same value, 20, so the data in the table model an inverse variation.

**Exercises**

Do the data in the table represent a direct variation, inverse variation, or neither?

1. **direct variation**

2. **inverse variation**
To solve problems involving inverse variation, you need to solve for the constant of variation $k$ before you can find an answer.

**Problem**

The time $t$ that is necessary to complete a task varies inversely as the number of people $p$ working. If it takes 4 h for 12 people to paint the exterior of a house, how long does it take for 3 people to do the same job?

$$t = \frac{k}{p}$$

Write an inverse variation. Because time is dependent on people, $t$ is the dependent variable and $p$ is the independent variable.

$$4 = \frac{k}{12}$$

Substitute 4 for $t$ and 12 for $p$.

$$48 = k$$

Multiply both sides by 12 to solve for $k$, the constant of variation.

$$t = \frac{48}{p}$$

Substitute 48 for $k$. This is the equation of the inverse variation.

$$t = \frac{48}{3} = 16$$

Substitute 3 for $p$. Simplify to solve the equation.

It takes 3 people 16 h to paint the exterior of the house.

**Exercises**

3. The time $t$ needed to complete a task varies inversely as the number of people $p$. It takes 5 h for seven men to install a new roof. How long does it take ten men to complete the job? 3.5 h

4. The time $t$ needed to drive a certain distance varies inversely as the speed $r$. It takes 7.5 h at 40 mi/h to drive a certain distance. How long does it take to drive the same distance at 60 mi/h? 5 h

5. The cost of each item bought is inversely proportional to the number of items when spending a fixed amount. When 42 items are bought, each costs $1.46. Find the number of items when each costs $2.16. about 28 items

6. The length $l$ of a rectangle of a certain area varies inversely as the width $w$. The length of a rectangle is 9 cm when the width is 6 cm. Determine the length if the width is 8 cm. 6.75 cm
8-1  Think About a Plan
Inverse Variation

The spreadsheet shows data that could be modeled by an equation of the form \( PV = k \). Estimate \( P \) when \( V = 62 \).

**Understanding the Problem**

1. The data can be modeled by \( PV = k \).

2. What is the problem asking you to determine?

   an estimate of the value of \( P \) when \( V = 62 \)

**Planning the Solution**

3. What does it mean that the data can be modeled by an inverse variation?

   The product of each pair of \( P \) and \( V \) values is approximately the same constant

4. How can you estimate the constant of the inverse variation?

   Find \( PV \) for each row of the data. It should be approximately the same for each row

5. What is the constant of the inverse variation? about 14,000

6. Write an equation that you can use to find \( P \) when \( V = 62 \). \( 62P = 14,000 \)

**Getting an Answer**

7. Solve your equation.

   \[
   62P = 14,000 \\
   P = \frac{14,000}{62} \approx 226
   \]

8. What is an estimate for \( P \) when \( V = 62 \)? about 226
8-1
Puzzle: Constant of Variation
Inverse Variation

Answer the following questions about inverse and combined variation.

Each ordered pair is from an inverse variation. Find the constant of variation.

1. \((2, 1)\)  2. \((-1, 5)\)  3. \((0.4, 0.5)\)  4. \((-5.2, -0.25)\)  5. \(\left(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{3}\right)\)  6. \(\left(\frac{7}{2}, 5\right)\)

Suppose that \(x\) and \(y\) vary inversely. Find the constant of variation.

7. \(x = 6\) when \(y = \frac{1}{2}\)  8. \(x = -3\) when \(y = 2\)  9. \(x = 0.5\) when \(y = -2.2\)
10. \(x = 0.2\) when \(y = 2\)  11. \(x = \frac{2}{3}\) when \(y = \frac{4}{9}\)  12. \(x = \frac{9}{10}\) when \(y = -\frac{2}{3}\)

Each pair of values is from an inverse variation. Find the missing value.

13. \((2, 6), (-4, y)\)  14. \((9, -2), (x, -3)\)  15. \((7, 0.2), (5, y)\)  16. \(\left(\frac{4}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right), \left(x, \frac{5}{9}\right)\)

For the following, find \(z\) when \(x = 2\) and \(y = 10\).

17. \(z\) varies jointly with \(x\) and \(y\). When \(x = -8\) and \(y = -3\), \(z = 6\).
18. \(z\) varies directly with \(x\) and inversely with \(y\). When \(x = 4\) and \(y = 20\), \(z = -1\).
19. \(z\) varies directly with the square of \(y\) and inversely with \(x\). When \(x = 0.6\) and \(y = 0.3\), \(z = 0.09\).

The numerical solutions correspond to letters according to the table below.

The numbers below the spaces correspond to the exercise numbers. Write the letter corresponding to the exercise solution in each space. The resulting quotation is by mathematician and philosopher Bertrand Russell.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6</th>
<th>6.28</th>
<th>-5</th>
<th>-3</th>
<th>-1.1</th>
<th>-1</th>
<th>-( \frac{2}{3} )</th>
<th>-( \frac{3}{5} )</th>
<th>0.2</th>
<th>( \frac{1}{4} )</th>
<th>0.28</th>
<th>0.4</th>
<th>( \frac{4}{9} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

69
8-1 Practice
Inverse Variation

Is the relationship between the values in each table a direct variation, an inverse variation, or neither? Write equations to model the direct and inverse variations.

1. \[ \begin{array}{cccccc}
   x & 2 & 4 & 5 & 20 \\
   y & 10 & 5 & 4 & 1 \\
\end{array} \]
   inverse; \[ y = \frac{20}{x} \]

2. \[ \begin{array}{cccccc}
   x & 1 & 3 & 7 & 10 \\
   y & 2 & 8 & 20 & 29 \\
\end{array} \]
   neither

3. \[ \begin{array}{cccc}
   x & 1 & 2 & 5 \\
   y & 6 & 12 & 30 \\
\end{array} \]
   direct; \[ y = 6x \]

4. \[ \begin{array}{cccc}
   x & 0.2 & 0.5 & 2 \\
   y & 25 & 62.5 & 250 \\
\end{array} \]
   direct; \[ y = 125x \]

5. \[ \begin{array}{cccc}
   x & \frac{1}{10} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{3}{2} \\
   y & 31 & 7 & 3 \\
\end{array} \]
   neither

6. \[ \begin{array}{cccc}
   x & 3 & 1.5 & 0.5 \\
   y & 5 & 10 & 30 \\
\end{array} \]
   inverse; \[ y = \frac{15}{x} \]

Suppose that \( x \) and \( y \) vary inversely. Write a function that models each inverse variation. Graph the function and find \( y \) when \( x = 10 \).

7. \( x = 7 \) when \( y = 2 \)
   \[ y = \frac{14}{x} \cdot \frac{7}{5} \]

8. \( x = 4 \) when \( y = 0.2 \)
   \[ y = \frac{4}{5x} \cdot 0.08 \text{ or } \frac{2}{25} \]

9. \( x = \frac{1}{3} \) when \( y = \frac{9}{10} \)
   \[ y = \frac{3}{10x} \cdot 0.03 \text{ or } \frac{3}{100} \]

10. The students in a school club decide to raise money by selling hats with the school mascot on them. The table below shows how many hats they can expect to sell based on how much they charge per hat in dollars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price per Hat (p)</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hats Sold (h)</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. What is a function that models the data? \( ph = 360 \) or \( h = \frac{360}{p} \)

b. How many hats can the students expect to sell if they charge $7.50 per hat? 48

11. The minimum number of carpet rolls \( n \) needed to carpet a house varies directly as the house's square footage \( h \) and inversely with the square footage \( r \) in one roll. It takes a minimum of two 1200-ft\(^2\) carpet rolls to cover 2300 ft\(^2\) of floor. What is the minimum number of 1200-ft\(^2\) carpet rolls you would need to cover 2500 ft\(^2\) of floor? Round your answer up to the nearest half roll. 2.5
Practice

Inverse Variation

Is the relationship between the values in each table a direct variation, an inverse variation, or neither? Write an equation to model the direct and inverse variations.

1. \( \begin{array}{cc}
\text{x} & \text{y} \\
0.1 & 3 \\
3 & 0.1 \\
6 & 0.05 \\
24 & 0.0125 \\
\end{array} \)

inverse variation; \( y = \frac{0.3}{x} \)

2. \( \begin{array}{cc}
\text{x} & \text{y} \\
1 & 3 \\
2 & 6 \\
5 & 15 \\
6 & 18 \\
\end{array} \)

direct variation; \( y = 3x \)

3. \( \begin{array}{cc}
\text{x} & \text{y} \\
0 & 1 \\
2 & 5 \\
4 & 7 \\
6 & 8 \\
\end{array} \)

neither

Suppose that \( x \) and \( y \) vary inversely. Write a function that models each inverse variation. Graph the function and find \( y \) when \( x = 10 \).

4. \( x = 2 \) when \( y = -4 \)

\( y = -\frac{8}{x}; -\frac{4}{5} \)

5. \( x = -9 \) when \( y = -1 \)

\( y = \frac{9}{x}; \frac{9}{10} \)

6. \( x = 1.5 \) when \( y = 10 \)

\( y = \frac{15}{x}; 1.5 \)

7. Suppose the table at the right shows the time \( t \) it takes to drive home when you travel at various average speeds \( s \).

a. Write a function that models the relationship between the speed and the time it takes to drive home. \( s = \frac{10}{t} \)

b. At what speed would you need to drive to get home in 50 min or \( \frac{5}{6} \) h? 12 mi/h

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time ( t ) (h)</th>
<th>Speed ( s ) (mi/h)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8-1 Practice (continued)
Inverse Variation

Use combined variation to solve each problem.

8. The height \( h \) of a cylinder varies directly with the volume of the cylinder and inversely with the square of the cylinder's radius \( r \) with the constant equal to \( \frac{1}{\pi} \).
   a. Write a formula that models this combined variation. \( h = \frac{V}{\pi r^2} \)
   b. What is the height of a cylinder with radius 4 m and volume 500 m\(^3\)?
      Use 3.14 for \( \pi \) and round to the nearest tenth of a meter. \( 10.0 \text{ m} \)

9. Some students volunteered to clean up a highway near their school. The amount of time it will take varies directly with the length of the section of highway and inversely with the number of students who will help. If 25 students clean up 5 mi of highway, the project will take 2 h. How long would it take 85 students to clean up 34 mi of highway? \( 4 \text{ h} \)

Write the function that models each variation. Find \( z \) when \( x = 2 \) and \( y = 6 \).

10. \( z \) varies inversely with \( x \) and directly with \( y \). When \( x = 5 \) and \( y = 10, z = 2 \). \( z = \frac{y}{x}; 3 \)

11. \( z \) varies directly with the square of \( x \) and inversely with \( y \). When \( x = 2 \) and \( y = 4, z = 3 \). \( z = \frac{3x^2}{y}; 2 \)

Each ordered pair is from an inverse variation. Find the constant of variation.

12. \((2, 2)\); \( k = 4 \)
13. \((1, 8)\); \( k = 8 \)
14. \((9, 4)\); \( k = 36 \)

Each pair of values is from an inverse variation. Find the missing value.

15. \((9, 5), (x, 3)\); \( x = 15 \)
16. \((8, 7), (5, y)\); \( y = 11.2 \)
17. \((2, 7), (x, 1)\); \( x = 14 \)
Enrichment
Inverse Variation

Each situation below can be modeled by a direct variation, inverse variation, joint variation, or combined variation equation. Decide which model to use and explain why.

1. The circumference $C$ of a circle is about $3.14$ times the diameter $d$.
   *Direct variation; answers may vary. Sample: This relationship can be modeled by the equation $C = 3.14d$, where $3.14$ is the constant of variation.*

2. The number of cavities that develop in a patient’s teeth depends on the total number of minutes spent brushing.
   *Inverse variation; answers may vary. Sample: As the number of minutes spent brushing increases, the number of cavities should decrease. This suggests an inverse variation.*

3. The time it takes to build a bridge depends on the number of workers.
   *Inverse variation; answers may vary. Sample: As the number of workers increases, the time it takes to build a bridge should decrease. This suggests an inverse variation.*

4. The number of minutes it will take to solve a problem set depends on the number of problems and the number of people working on the problem set.
   *Combined variation; answers may vary. Sample: The time to solve a problem set increases as the number of problems increases, but decreases as the number of people working on the set increases. This suggests a combined variation.*

5. The current $I$ in an electrical circuit decreases as the resistance $R$ increases.
   *Inverse variation; answers may vary. Sample: As one variable increases, the other decreases. This suggests an inverse variation.*

6. Charles’s Gas Law states the volume $V$ of an enclosed gas at a constant pressure will increase as the absolute temperature $T$ increases.
   *Direct variation; answers may vary. Sample: As one variable increases, so does the other. This suggests a direct variation.*

7. Boyle’s Law states that the volume $V$ of an enclosed gas at a constant temperature is related to the pressure. The pressure of 3.45 L of neon gas is 0.926 atmosphere (atm). At the same temperature, the pressure of 2.2 L of neon gas is 1.452 atm.
   *Inverse variation; answers may vary. Sample: As the pressure increases, the volume decreases. This suggests an inverse variation.*
8-2  Additional Vocabulary Support
The Reciprocal Function Family

For Exercises 1–5, draw a line from each word in Column A to its definition in Column B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. reciprocal</td>
<td>A. function that models inverse variation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. branch</td>
<td>B. stretches, compressions, reflections, and horizontal and vertical translations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. reciprocal function</td>
<td>C. multiplicative inverse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. reflection of the reciprocal function</td>
<td>D. the graph of ( y = \frac{1}{x} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. transformations</td>
<td>E. each part of the graph of a reciprocal function</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Exercises 6–9, the graph of each function is a transformation of the parent graph of \( f(x) = \frac{1}{x} \). Draw a line from each function to its transformation.

6. \( f(x) = \frac{2}{x} \)  A. a horizontal translation
7. \( f(x) = -\frac{1}{x} \)  B. a reflection over the x-axis
8. \( f(x) = \frac{1}{x - 2} \)  C. a vertical translation
9. \( f(x) = \frac{1}{x} + 4 \)  D. a stretch
Reteaching
The Reciprocal Function Family

A Reciprocal Function in General Form

The general form is \( y = \frac{a}{x - h} + k \), where \( a \neq 0 \) and \( x \neq h \).

The graph of this equation has a horizontal asymptote at \( y = k \) and a vertical asymptote at \( x = h \).

Two Members of the Reciprocal Function Family

When \( a \neq 1, h = 0, \) and \( k = 0 \), you get the inverse variation function, \( y = \frac{a}{x} \).

When \( a = 1, h = 0, \) and \( k = 0 \), you get the parent reciprocal function, \( y = \frac{1}{x} \).

Problem

What is the graph of the inverse variation function \( y = \frac{-5}{x} \)?

Step 1 Rewrite in general form and identify \( a, h, \) and \( k \).

\[
y = \frac{-5}{x - 0} + 0 \quad a = -5, \quad h = 0, \quad k = 0
\]

Step 2 Identify and graph the horizontal and vertical asymptotes.

horizontal asymptote: \( y = k \)
vertical asymptote: \( x = h \)

Step 3 Make a table of values for \( y = \frac{-5}{x} \). Plot the points and then connect the points in each quadrant to make a curve.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( x )</th>
<th>-5</th>
<th>-2.5</th>
<th>-1</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2.5</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( y )</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercises

Graph each function. Include the asymptotes.

1. \( y = \frac{9}{x} \)
2. \( y = -\frac{4}{x} \)
3. \( xy = 2 \)
A reciprocal function in the form \( y = \frac{a}{x-h} + k \) is a translation of the inverse variation function \( y = \frac{a}{x} \). The translation is \( h \) units horizontally and \( k \) units vertically. The translated graph has asymptotes at \( x = h \) and \( y = k \).

**Problem**

What is the graph of the reciprocal function \( y = \frac{-6}{x + 3} + 2 \)?

**Step 1** Rewrite in general form and identify \( a, h, \) and \( k \).

\[
y = \frac{-6}{x - (-3)} + 2 \quad a = -6, \ h = -3, \ k = 2
\]

**Step 2** Identify and graph the horizontal and vertical asymptotes.

Horizontal asymptote: \( y = k \)

\( y = 2 \)

Vertical asymptote: \( x = h \)

\( x = -3 \)

**Step 3** Make a table of values for \( y = \frac{-6}{x} \), then translate each \((x, y)\) pair to \((x + h, y + k)\). Plot the translated points and connect the points in each quadrant to make a curve.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( x )</th>
<th>(-6)</th>
<th>(-3)</th>
<th>(-2)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( y )</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>(-3)</td>
<td>(-2)</td>
<td>(-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( x + (-3) )</td>
<td>(-9)</td>
<td>(-6)</td>
<td>(-5)</td>
<td>(-2)</td>
<td>(-1)</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( y + 2 )</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>(-1)</td>
<td>(0)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exercises**

Graph each function. Include the asymptotes.

4. \( y = \frac{3}{x - 2} - 4 \)

5. \( y = \frac{-4}{x - 8} \)

6. \( y = \frac{2}{3x} + \frac{3}{2} \)
a. **Gasoline Mileage** Suppose you drive an average of 10,000 miles each year. Your gasoline mileage (mi/gal) varies inversely with the number of gallons of gasoline you use each year. Write and graph a model for your average mileage \( m \) in terms of the gallons \( g \) of gasoline used.

b. After you begin driving on the highway more often, you use 50 gal less per year. Write and graph a new model to include this information.

c. Calculate your old and new mileage assuming that you originally used 400 gal of gasoline per year.

1. Write a formula for gasoline mileage in words.

   **The mileage is equal to the number of miles divided by the number of gallons**

2. Write and graph an equation to model your average mileage \( m \) in terms of the gallons \( g \) of gasoline used.

   \[
   m = \frac{10,000}{g}
   \]

3. Write and graph an equation to model your average mileage \( m \) in terms of the gallons \( g \) of gasoline used if you use 50 gal less per year.

   \[
   m = \frac{10,000}{g - 50}
   \]

4. How can you find your old and your new mileage from your equations?

   **Evaluate each equation at \( g = 400 \)**

5. What is your old mileage? \( 25 \text{ mi/gal} \)

6. What is your new mileage? \( \text{about 28.6 mi/gal} \)
Complete this activity on your own.

A Function Fable

Given: \( g(x) = \frac{1}{x} \), \( s(x) = \frac{1}{x + 2} \), \( d(x) = \frac{1}{x - 3} \), \( m(x) = \frac{1}{x - 3} + 6 \), \( p(x) = \frac{1}{x + 2} + 3 \),
and \( f(x) = \frac{-1}{x + 2} - 3 \)

Grandma function \( g(x) \) had two children. Her son Steve \( s(x) \) was left-handed and her daughter Diana \( d(x) \) was right-handed. Diana had one very tall child Michel \( m(x) \), who towered above her. Steve had two children as well. Pat \( p(x) \) and Jo \( f(x) \) were twins, but opposites of one another.

Graph the functions \( g(x) \), \( s(x) \), and \( p(x) \) on the grids below.

![Graphs of functions g(x), s(x), and p(x)](image)

Activity

Make a reciprocal function family with at least 3 “generations” and 6 individual functions. Explain the transformations that yield each member. Have at least one member in the third generation be a driving, graduate-athlete given:

- A horizontal translation corresponds to being a driver.
- A vertical translation corresponds to being an athlete.
- A reflection corresponds to being a high-school graduate.

Note: In the fable above, Jo was the only driving, graduate-athlete.

Then sketch a graph of one function from each generation (including the driving, graduate-athlete), showing all asymptotes.

Check student’s work.

Optional Extension: Have students come up with their own creative story about a family, as in the fable. It should also have details based in mathematics.
8-2 Practice
The Reciprocal Function Family

Graph each function. Identify the x- and y-intercepts and the asymptotes of the graph. Also, state the domain and the range of the function.

1. \( y = \frac{12}{x} \)
   - no intercepts; \( x = 0 \), \( y = 0 \); all real numbers except \( x = 0 \); all real num. except \( y = 0 \)

2. \( y = \frac{5}{x} \)
   - no intercepts; \( x = 0 \), \( y = 0 \); all real numbers except \( x = 0 \); all real num. except \( y = 0 \)

3. \( y = -\frac{4}{x} \)
   - no intercepts; \( x = 0 \), \( y = 0 \); all real numbers except \( x = 0 \); all real num. except \( y = 0 \)

Use a graphing calculator to graph the equations \( y = \frac{1}{x} \) and \( y = \frac{a}{x} \) using the given value of \( a \). Then identify the effect of \( a \) on the graph.

4. \( a = 3 \)
   - x scale: 1 y scale: 1
   - Stretch by a factor of 3.

5. \( a = -5 \)
   - x scale: 1 y scale: 1
   - Reflect over x-axis and stretch by a factor of 5.

6. \( a = 0.4 \)
   - x scale: 0.1 y scale: 0.1
   - Shrink by a factor of 0.4.

Sketch the asymptotes and the graph of each function. Identify the domain and range.

7. \( y = \frac{1}{x} + 3 \)
   - all real numbers except \( x = 0 \); all real numbers except \( y = 3 \)

8. \( y = \frac{3}{4x} + \frac{1}{2} \)
   - all real numbers except \( x = 0 \); all real numbers except \( y = \frac{1}{2} \)

9. \( y = \frac{3}{x-1} + 2 \)
   - all real numbers except \( x = 1 \); all real numbers except \( y = 2 \)

Write an equation for the translation of \( y = -\frac{3}{x} \) that has the given asymptotes.

10. \( x = -1; y = 3 \)
    - \( y = -\frac{3}{x+1} + 3 \)

11. \( x = 4; y = -2 \)
    - \( y = -\frac{3}{x-4} - 2 \)

12. \( x = 0; y = 6 \)
    - \( y = -\frac{3}{x} + 6 \)
13. The length of a pipe in a panpipe \( \ell \) (in feet) is inversely proportional to its pitch \( p \) (in hertz). The inverse variation is modeled by the equation \( p = \frac{495}{\ell} \). Find the length required to produce a pitch of 220 Hz. **2.25 ft**

Write each equation in the form \( y = \frac{k}{x} \).

14. \( y = \frac{4}{5x} \) \( y = \frac{0.8}{x} \)

15. \( y = -\frac{7}{2x} \) \( y = -\frac{3.5}{x} \)

16. \( xy = -0.03 \) \( y = -\frac{0.03}{x} \)

Sketch the graph of each function.

17. \( xy = 6 \)

18. \( xy + 10 = 0 \)

19. \( 4xy = -1 \)

20. The junior class is buying keepsakes for Class Night. The price of each keepsake \( p \) is inversely proportional to the number of keepsakes \( s \) bought. The keepsake company also offers 10 free keepsakes in addition to the class’s order. The equation \( p = \frac{1800}{s + 10} \) models this inverse variation.
   a. If the class buys 240 keepsakes, what is the price for each one? **$7.20**
   b. If the class pays $5.55 for each keepsake, how many can they get, including the free keepsakes? **324**
   c. If the class buys 400 keepsakes, what is the price for each one? **$4.39**
   d. If the class buys 50 keepsakes, what is the price for each one? **$30**

Graph each pair of functions. Find the approximate point(s) of intersection.

21. \( y = \frac{3}{x - 4}; y = 2 \) **(5.5, 2)**

22. \( y = \frac{2}{x + 5}; y = -1.5 \) **(-6.3, -1.5)**
8-2 Practice (continued) Form K

The Reciprocal Function Family

Write an equation for the translation of \( y = \frac{3}{x} \) that has the given asymptotes.

10. \( x = 0 \) and \( y = 2 \)
\[ y = \frac{3}{x} + 2 \]

11. \( x = -2 \) and \( y = 4 \)
\[ y = \frac{3}{x + 2} + 4 \]

12. \( x = 5 \) and \( y = -3 \)
\[ y = \frac{3}{x - 5} - 3 \]

Sketch the graph of each function.

13. \( 3xy = 1 \)

14. \( xy - 8 = 0 \)

15. \( 2xy = -6 \)

16. Writing Explain the difference between what happens to the graph of the parent function of \( y = \frac{a}{x} \) when \(|a| > 1\) and what happens when \(0 < |a| < 1\).

When \(|a| > 1\), the parent function is stretched by the factor of \(a\). When \(0 < |a| < 1\), the parent function is compressed by the factor of \(a\).

17. Suppose your class wants to get your teacher an end-of-year gift of a weekend package at her favorite spa. The package costs $250. Let \(c\) equal the cost each student needs to pay and \(s\) equal the number of students.
   
a. If there are 22 students, how much will each student need to pay? $11.37

b. Using the information, how many total students (including those from other classes) need to contribute to the teacher’s gift, if no student wants to pay more than $7? 36 students

c. Reasoning Did you need to round your answers up or down? Explain.
   
up; because if you round down, the total contribution by the students would be less than $250.
Understanding Horizontal Asymptotes

The line \( y = \frac{3}{4} \) is a horizontal asymptote for the graph of the function \( y = \frac{3x + 5}{4x - 8} \). By using long division, you can rewrite this function in the form quotient + remainder divided by the divisor: \( y = \frac{3}{4} + \frac{11}{4x - 8} \).

Examine what happens to the remainder divided by the divisor and the value of \( y \) as the value of \( x \) gets larger. Fill in the following table to four decimal places.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( x )</th>
<th>( \frac{11}{4x - 8} )</th>
<th>( \frac{3}{4} + \frac{11}{4x - 8} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.7500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.3438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0.0281</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that as \( x \) gets larger, both the remainder and the value of \( y \) get smaller.

Although the value of \( y \) is always greater than \( \frac{3}{4} \), it gets closer to \( \frac{3}{4} \) as \( x \) gets larger. As \( x \) gets infinitely large, \( y \) approaches \( \frac{3}{4} \) from above. Write this as:

As \( x \to +\infty \), \( y \to \frac{3}{4} \) from above.

Examine what happens as \( x \) gets smaller. Fill in the following table to four decimal places.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( x )</th>
<th>( \frac{11}{4x - 8} )</th>
<th>( \frac{3}{4} + \frac{11}{4x - 8} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-0.5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-0.2292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>-0.0270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here the value of \( y \) is always less than \( \frac{3}{4} \), but it gets closer to \( \frac{3}{4} \) as \( x \) gets smaller (more negative). Write this as: As \( x \to -\infty \), \( y \to \frac{3}{4} \) from below.

In both cases, \( y \) approaches \( \frac{3}{4} \), so the horizontal asymptote is \( y = \frac{3}{4} \).
8-3 Additional Vocabulary Support
Rational Functions and Their Graphs

Concept List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>continuous</th>
<th>discontinuous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>horizontal asymptote</td>
<td>non-removable discontinuity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rational function</td>
<td>removable discontinuity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>factors</td>
<td>point of discontinuity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vertical asymptote</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choose the concept from the list above that best represents the item in each box.

1. the line that a graph approaches as \( y \) increases in absolute value
   - vertical asymptote

2. In the denominator, these reveal the points of discontinuity.
   - factors

3. This type of discontinuity appears as a hole in the graph.
   - removable discontinuity

4. This type of graph has no jumps, breaks, or holes.
   - continuous

5. a function that you can write in the form \( f(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} \) where \( P(x) \) and \( Q(x) \) are polynomial functions
   - rational function

6. a graph that has a one-point hole or a vertical asymptote
   - discontinuous

7. This type of discontinuity appears as a vertical asymptote on the graph.
   - non-removable discontinuity

8. The graph of \( f(x) \) is not continuous at this point.
   - point of discontinuity

9. the line that a graph approaches as \( x \) increases in absolute value
   - horizontal asymptote
Rational Functions and Their Graphs

A rational function may have one or more types of discontinuities: holes (removable points of discontinuity), vertical asymptotes (non-removable points of discontinuity), or a horizontal asymptote.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If</th>
<th>Then</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| $a$ is a zero with multiplicity $m$ in the numerator and multiplicity $n$ in the denominator, and $m \geq n$ | hole at $x = a$             | $f(x) = \frac{(x - 5)(x + 6)}{(x - 5)}$  
  hole at $x = 5$ |
| $a$ is a zero of the denominator only, or $a$ is a zero with multiplicity $m$ in the numerator and multiplicity $n$ in the denominator, and $m < n$ | vertical asymptote at $x = a$ | $f(x) = \frac{x^2}{x - 3}$  
  vertical asymptote at $x = 3$ |

Let $p = \text{degree of numerator}$.  
Let $q = \text{degree of denominator}$.

- $m < n$  
  horizontal asymptote at $y = 0$  
  $f(x) = \frac{4x^2}{7x^2 + 2}$  
  horizontal asymptote at $y = \frac{4}{7}$
- $m > n$  
  no horizontal asymptote exists
- $m = n$  
  horizontal asymptote at $y = \frac{a}{b}$ where $a$ and $b$ are coefficients of highest degree terms in numerator and denominator

**Problem**

What are the points of discontinuity of $y = \frac{x^2 + x - 6}{3x^2 - 12}$, if any?

**Step 1**  
Factor the numerator and denominator completely.  
$y = \frac{(x - 2)(x + 3)}{3(x - 2)(x + 2)}$

**Step 2**  
Look for values that are zeros of both the numerator and the denominator.  
The function has a hole at $x = 2$.

**Step 3**  
Look for values that are zeros of the denominator only. The function has a vertical asymptote at $x = -2$.

**Step 4**  
Compare the degrees of the numerator and denominator. They have the same degree. The function has a horizontal asymptote at $y = \frac{1}{3}$.

**Exercises**

Find the vertical asymptotes, holes, and horizontal asymptote for the graph of each rational function.

1. $y = \frac{x}{x^2 - 9}$  
   vertical asymptote: $x = 3$, $x = -3$;  
   hole: $x = 1$  
   horizontal asymptote: $y = 0$
2. $y = \frac{6x^2 - 6}{x - 1}$  
   vertical asymptote: $x = -\frac{2}{3}$
3. $y = \frac{4x + 5}{3x + 2}$  
   horizontal asymptote: $y = \frac{4}{3}$
8-3 Reteaching (continued)

Rational Functions and Their Graphs

Before you try to sketch the graph of a rational function, get an idea of its general shape by identifying the graph’s holes, asymptotes, and intercepts.

**Problem**

What is the graph of the rational function \( y = \frac{x + 3}{x + 1} \)?

**Step 1** Identify any holes or asymptotes.

- no holes; vertical asymptote at \( x = -1 \); horizontal asymptote at \( y = \frac{1}{1} = 1 \)

**Step 2** Identify any \( x \)- and \( y \)-intercepts.

- \( x \)-intercepts occur when \( y = 0 \).
  - \( x + 3 = 0 \) \( \Rightarrow x = -3 \)
  - \( x \)-intercept at \(-3\)

- \( y \)-intercepts occur when \( x = 0 \).
  - \( y = 0 + 3 \) \( \Rightarrow y = 3 \)
  - \( y \)-intercept at \(3\)

**Step 3** Sketch the asymptotes and intercepts.

**Step 4** Make a table of values, plot the points, and sketch the graph.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( x )</th>
<th>( y )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exercises**

Graph each function. Include the asymptotes.

4. \( y = \frac{4}{x^2 - 9} \)

5. \( y = \frac{x^2 + 2x - 2}{x - 1} \)
8-4  Think About a Plan
Rational Expressions

Manufacturing  A toy company is considering a cube or sphere-shaped container for packaging a new product. The height of the cube would equal the diameter of the sphere. Compare the ratios of the volumes to the surface areas of the containers. Which packaging will be more efficient? For a sphere, \( SA = 4\pi r^2 \).

Understanding the Problem

1. Let \( x \) be the height of the cube. What are expressions for the cube’s volume and surface area?

   Volume: \( x^3 \)  
   Surface area: \( 6x^2 \)

2. Let \( x \) be the diameter of the sphere. What are expressions for the sphere’s volume and surface area?

   Volume: \( \frac{4}{3} \pi (\frac{x}{2})^3 \) or \( \frac{\pi x^3}{6} \)  
   Surface area: \( 4\pi (\frac{x}{2})^2 \) or \( \pi x^2 \)

3. What is the problem asking you to do?

   Find the ratios of volume to surface area for the cube and the sphere. Compare the ratios to decide which is a more efficient package.

Planning the Solution

4. Write an expression for the ratio of the cube’s volume to its surface area.

   Simplify your expression.

   \( \frac{x^3}{6x^2} = \frac{x}{6} \)

5. Write an expression for the ratio of the sphere’s volume to its surface area.

   Simplify your expression.

   \( \frac{\pi x^3}{\pi x^2} = \frac{x}{6} \)

Getting an Answer

6. Compare the ratios of the volumes to the surface areas of the containers.

   Which packaging will be more efficient?

   The ratios are the same. The package shapes are equally efficient.
Find the domain, points of discontinuity, and $x$- and $y$-intercepts of each rational function. Determine whether the discontinuities are removable or non-removable.

1. $y = \frac{(x - 4)(x + 3)}{x + 3}$
   - all real num except $x = -3$;
   - $(4, 0), (0, -4)$; removable

2. $y = \frac{(x - 3)(x + 1)}{x - 2}$
   - all real num except $2$; $x = 2$;
   - $(-1, 0) (3, 0), (0, \frac{3}{2})$; non-removable

3. $y = \frac{2}{x + 1}$
   - all real num except $-1$; $x = -1$, no $x$-intercept, $(0, 2)$; non-removable

4. $y = \frac{4x}{x^2 + 16}$
   - all real num; none; $(0, 0)$

Find the vertical asymptotes and holes for the graph of each rational function.

5. $y = \frac{5 - x}{x^2 - 1}$
   - vertical asymptotes at $x = 1$ and $x = -1$

6. $y = \frac{x^2 - 2}{x + 2}$
   - vertical asymptote at $x = -2$

7. $y = \frac{x}{x(x - 1)}$
   - vertical asymptote at $x = 1$; hole at $x = 0$

8. $y = \frac{x + 3}{x^2 - 9}$
   - vertical asymptote at $x = 3$;
   - hole at $x = -3$

9. $y = \frac{x - 2}{(x + 2)(x - 2)}$
   - vertical asymptote at $x = -2$;
   - hole at $x = 2$

10. $y = \frac{x^2 - 4}{x^2 + 4}$
    - no vertical asymptotes or holes

11. $y = \frac{x^2 - 25}{x - 4}$
    - vertical asymptote at $x = 4$

12. $y = \frac{(x - 2)(2x + 3)}{(5x + 4)(x - 3)}$
    - vertical asymptotes at $x = -\frac{4}{5}$ and $x = 3$

Find the horizontal asymptote of the graph of each rational function.

13. $y = \frac{2}{x - 6}$
    - $y = 0$

14. $y = \frac{x + 2}{x - 4}$
    - $y = 1$

15. $y = \frac{2x^2 + 3}{x^2 - 6}$
    - $y = 2$

16. $y = \frac{3x - 12}{x^2 - 2}$
    - $y = 0$

Sketch the graph of each rational function.

17. $y = \frac{3}{x - 2}$

18. $y = \frac{3}{(x - 2)(x + 2)}$

19. $y = \frac{x}{x^2 + 4}$

20. $y = \frac{x + 2}{x - 1}$
21. How many milliliters of 0.75% sugar solution must be added to 100 mL of 1.5% sugar solution to form a 1.25% sugar solution? \( 50 \text{ mL} \)

22. A soccer player has made 3 of his last 24 shots on goal, or 12.5%. How many more consecutive goals does he need to raise his shots-on-goal average to at least 20%? \( 3 \)

23. Error Analysis  A student listed the asymptotes of the function \( y = \frac{x^2 + 5x + 6}{x(x^2 + 4x + 4)} \) as shown at the right. Explain the student’s error(s). What are the correct asymptotes?  

The horizontal asymptote should be \( y = 0 \), because the degree of the numerator is less than the degree of the denominator. The zeros of the denominator are \( x = 0 \) and \( x = -2 \), so there should also be a vertical asymptote at \( x = -2 \).

24. \( y = \frac{x}{x(x - 6)} \)  
25. \( y = \frac{2x}{x - 6} \)  
26. \( y = \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2 - 4} \)  
27. \( y = \frac{2x^2 + 10x + 12}{x^2 - 9} \)

Sketch the graph of each rational function.

28. You start a business word-processing papers for other students. You spend \$3500 on a computer system and office furniture. You figure additional costs at \$0.02 per page.
   a. Write a rational function modeling the total average cost per page.
      Graph the function. \( y = \frac{0.02x + 3500}{x} \), where \( x = \text{number of pages} \)
   b. What is the total average cost per page if you type 1000 pages? If you type 2000? \$3.52; \$1.77
   c. How many pages must you type to bring your total average cost to less than \$1.50 per page? at least 2365 pages
   d. What are the vertical and horizontal asymptotes of the graph of the function? \( x = 0; y = 0.02 \)
Find the domain, points of discontinuity, and x- and y-intercepts of each rational function. Determine whether the discontinuities are removable or non-removable. To start, factor the numerator and denominator, if possible.

1. \( y = \frac{x + 5}{x - 2} \)
   - domain: all real numbers except \( x = 2 \); non-removable point of discontinuity at \( x = 2 \); x-intercept: \( x = -5 \); y-intercept: \( y = -\frac{5}{2} \)

2. \( y = \frac{1}{x^2 + 2x + 1} \)
   - domain: all real numbers except \( x = -1 \); non-removable point of discontinuity at \( x = -1 \); x-intercept: none; y-intercept: \( y = 1 \)

3. \( y = \frac{x + 4}{x^2 + 2x - 8} \)
   - domain: all real numbers except \( x = 2 \) and \( x = -4 \); non-removable point of discontinuity at \( x = -1 \); removable point of discontinuity at \( x = 2 \); x-intercept: none; y-intercept: \( y = -\frac{1}{2} \)

Find the vertical asymptotes and holes for the graph of each rational function.

4. \( y = \frac{x + 6}{x + 4} \)
   - vertical asymptote: \( x = -4 \)

5. \( y = \frac{(x - 2)(x - 1)}{x - 2} \)
   - vertical asymptote: none; hole at \( x = 2 \)

6. \( y = \frac{x + 1}{(3x - 2)(x - 3)} \)
   - vertical asymptotes: \( x = \frac{2}{3} \) and \( x = 3 \)

Find the horizontal asymptote of the graph of each rational function. To start, identify the degree of the numerator and denominator.

7. \( y = \frac{x + 1}{x + 5} \)
   - \( x + 1 \) \(-\) degree 1
   - \( x + 5 \) \(-\) degree 1
   - \( y = 1 \)

8. \( y = \frac{x + 2}{2x^2 - 4} \)
   - \( y = 0 \)

9. \( y = \frac{3x^2 - 4}{4x + 1} \)
   - no horizontal asymptote

Sketch the graph of each rational function.

10. \( y = \frac{x + 2}{(x + 3)(x - 4)} \)

11. \( y = \frac{x + 3}{(x - 1)(x - 5)} \)

12. \( y = \frac{2x}{3x - 1} \)
13. The CD-ROMs for a computer game can be manufactured for \$0.25 each. The development cost is \$124,000. The first 100 discs are samples and will not be sold.  
   a. Write a function for the average cost of a disc that is not a sample.  \[ y = \frac{0.25x + 124,000}{x - 100} \]
   b. What is the average cost if 2000 discs are produced? If 12,800 discs are produced?  \$65.53; \$10.02
   
   c. **Reasoning**  How could you find the number of discs that must be produced to bring the average cost under \$8?  
   d. How many discs must be produced to bring the average cost under \$8?  **16,104 discs**

   c. The intersection of  \[ y = \frac{0.25x + 124,000}{x - 100} \]  and  \( y = 8 \) rounded to the next whole number gives the number of discs that must be produced.

14. **Error Analysis**  For the rational function  \( y = \frac{x^2 - 2x - 8}{x^2 - 9} \), your friend said that the vertical asymptote is  \( x = 1 \) and the horizontal asymptotes are  \( y = 3 \) and  \( y = -3 \). Without doing any calculations, you know this is incorrect. Explain how you know.

   A rational function can have only 1 horizontal asymptote. Your friend must have switched the horizontal and vertical asymptote answers.

Sketch the graph of each rational function.

15.  \[ y = \frac{4x^2 - 100}{2x^2 + x - 15} \]

16.  \[ y = \frac{2x^2}{5x + 1} \]

17.  \[ y = \frac{2}{x^2 - 4} \]

18. **Multiple Choice**  What are the points of discontinuity for the graph of  \[ y = \frac{(2x + 3)(x - 5)}{(x + 5)(2x - 1)} \] ?  
   
   - **A**  -5, 1  
   - **B**  -\( \frac{3}{2}, 5 \)  
   - **C**  -5, \( \frac{1}{2} \)  
   - **D**  5, -\( \frac{1}{2} \)
Other Asymptotes

Recall that a rational function does not have a horizontal asymptote if the degree of the numerator is greater than the degree of the denominator. If, however, the degree of the numerator is exactly one more than the degree of the denominator, then the graph of the function has a slant asymptote.

You can use long division to find the equation of a slant asymptote. The equation of the slant asymptote is given by the quotient, disregarding the remainder.

1. Use long division to find the slant asymptote of \( f(x) = \frac{x^2 - x}{x + 1} \).
   The slant asymptote of the function is \( y = \frac{x}{2} - 2 \).

2. Graph the slant asymptote on a coordinate grid.

3. Graph the vertical asymptote for the equation in Exercise 1 on the grid.

4. Copy and complete the table, and plot the points accordingly.

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c}
 x & -3 & -2 & 0 & 2 & 3 \\
 \hline
 f(x) & -6 & -6 & 0 & \frac{2}{3} & \frac{3}{2} \\
\end{array}
\]

Connect with a smooth curve, being sure to draw near to all asymptotes.

5. Use long division to find the slant asymptote of \( f(x) = \frac{x^3 - x}{x^2 + 1} \).
   The slant asymptote of the function is \( y = \frac{x}{2} \).

6. Graph the slant asymptote on a new coordinate grid.

7. Find any vertical asymptotes for the equation in Exercise 5 and graph on the grid. **no vertical asymptotes**

8. Copy and complete the table, and plot the points accordingly.

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c}
 x & -3 & -2 & 0 & 2 & 3 \\
 \hline
 f(x) & -\frac{27}{10} & -\frac{8}{5} & 0 & \frac{8}{5} & \frac{27}{10} \\
\end{array}
\]

Connect with a smooth curve, being sure to draw near to all asymptotes.

9. The technique used to find slant (linear) asymptotes works for rational functions in which the degree of the numerator is one more than the degree of the denominator. Use long division to find the non-linear asymptote of the rational function given by \( f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 1}{x} \).
   The asymptote of the function is \( y = \frac{x^2}{2} \). Can you guess the shape of this asymptote? **parabola**
There are two sets of cards that show how to simplify \( \frac{x^2 - 4}{x^2 - 2x + 1} \cdot \frac{x^2 + 2x - 3}{2x^2 - 3x - 2} \). The set on the left explains the thinking. The set on the right shows the steps. Write the steps in the correct order.

### Think Cards

- Factor the numerators and denominators.
- Write the problem.
- Write the remaining factors.
- Divide out common factors.

### Write Cards

- \( \frac{(x - 2)(x + 2)}{(x - 1)(x + 1)} \cdot \frac{(x + 3)(x - 1)}{(2x + 1)(x - 2)} \)
- \( \frac{(x + 2)(x + 3)}{(x - 1)(2x + 1)} \)
- \( \frac{x^2 - 4}{x^2 - 2x + 1} \cdot \frac{x^2 + 2x - 3}{2x^2 - 3x - 2} \)
- \( \frac{(x - 2)(x + 2)}{(x - 1)(x - 1)} \cdot \frac{(x + 3)(x - 1)}{(2x + 1)(x - 2)} \)

### Think

- First, write the problem.

### Write

#### Step 1
\( \frac{x^2 - 4}{x^2 - 2x + 1} \cdot \frac{x^2 + 2x - 3}{2x^2 - 3x - 2} \)

#### Step 2
\( \frac{(x - 2)(x + 2)}{(x - 1)(x - 1)} \cdot \frac{(x + 3)(x - 1)}{(2x + 1)(x - 2)} \)

#### Step 3
\( \frac{(x - 2)(x + 2)}{(x - 1)(x - 1)} \cdot \frac{(x + 3)(x - 1)}{(2x + 1)(x - 2)} \)

#### Step 4
\( \frac{(x + 2)(x + 3)}{(x - 1)(2x + 1)} \)
8-4 Reteaching
Rational Expressions

Simplest form of a rational expression means the numerator and the denominator have no factors in common. You may have to restrict certain values of the variable(s) when you write in simplest form, because division by zero is undefined.

Problem
What is the expression \( \frac{6x^3y^2 + 6x^2y^2 - 12xy^2}{3x^2y^3 - 12y^3} \) written in simplest form? State any restrictions on the variables.

\[
\frac{6xy^2(x^2 + x - 2)}{3y^3(x^2 - 4)}
\]

Factor \( 6xy^2 \) out of the numerator and \( 3y^3 \) out of the denominator.

\[
\frac{6xy^2(x + 2)(x - 1)}{3y^3(x + 2)(x - 2)}
\]

Factor \( x^2 + x - 2 \) and \( x^2 - 4 \).

\[
\frac{(2 \cdot y \cdot x \cdot y \cdot (x - 2))(x - 1)}{(2 \cdot y \cdot x \cdot y)(x + 2)(x - 2)}
\]

Divide out the common factors.

\[
\frac{2(x - 1)}{y(x - 2)}
\]

Write the remaining factors.

Look at the original expression.

\[
\frac{6xy^2(x + 2)(x - 1)}{3y^3(x + 2)(x - 2)}
\]

is undefined if

3. \( y = 0 \) or \( x - 2 = 0 \).

So, \( y \neq 0 \) and \( x \neq 2 \).

In simplest form, the expression is \( \frac{2(x - 1)}{y(x - 2)} \), where \( y 
eq 0 \), \( x \neq -2 \), and \( x \neq 2 \).

Exercises
Simplify each rational expression. State any restrictions on the variable.

1. \( \frac{x^2 + x}{x^2 + 2x} \); \( x \neq -2, 0 \)

2. \( \frac{x^2 - 5x}{x^2 - 25} \); \( x \neq \pm 5 \)

3. \( \frac{x^2 + 3x - 18}{x^2 - 36} \); \( x \neq \pm 6 \)

4. \( \frac{4x^2 - 36}{x^2 + 10x + 21} \); \( x \neq -3, -7 \)

5. \( \frac{3x^2 - 12}{x^2 - x - 6} \); \( x \neq -2, 3 \)

6. \( \frac{y^2 - 9}{2x + 6} \); \( x \neq -3 \)
**Think About a Plan**

**Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions**

**Optics** To read small font, you use the magnifying lens with the focal length 3 in. How far from the magnifying lens should you place the page if you want to hold the lens at 1 foot from your eyes? Use the thin-lens equation.

**Know**

1. The focal length of the magnifying lens is **3 in.**

2. The distance from the lens to your eyes is **12 in.**

3. The thin-lens equation is \( \frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{d_i} + \frac{1}{d_o} \).

**Need**

4. To solve the problem I need to find: **the distance from the page to the lens**.

**Plan**

5. What variables in the thin-lens equation have values that are known?
   
   - \( f \) is the focal length of the lens, or 3 in.; \( d_i \) is the distance from the lens to the eyes, or 12 in.

6. Solve the thin-lens equation for the variable whose value is unknown. 
   \[
   d_o = \frac{fd_i}{d_i - f}
   \]

7. Substitute the known values into your equation and simplify. 
   \[
   d_o = \frac{fd_i}{d_i - f} = \frac{3 \cdot 12}{12 - 3} = \frac{36}{9} = 4
   \]

8. How far from the page should you hold the magnifying lens? **4 in.**
Puzzle: Multiply and Conquer
Rational Expressions

Two rational expressions are shown below. Below each expression is a table with 27 rational expressions and polynomials.

1. Determine which of the 27 expressions you multiply by the original rational expression to get 1. Circle these expressions. One expression is circled below.

2. Then enter the bold numbers from the circled expressions into their corresponding locations on the board at the bottom of the page. The number 4 (shown in bold) is entered into the board in the block of cells corresponding to Expression A.

3. As an additional challenge, after completing Step 2, do the Sudoku puzzle.
(Note: The objective is to fill the 9-by-9 grid so each column, row, and each of the nine 3-by-3 boxes contain the numbers 1 through 9 only one time each!)

Expression A:
\[
\frac{(x^2 - 5x - 24)(x^2 - 5x - 36)}{(x^2 - 8x + 16)(x^2 + 11x + 30)(x^2 - 4)}
\]

<p>| | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x+3</td>
<td>x-5</td>
<td>1/x+2</td>
<td>x-1</td>
<td>x-6</td>
<td>1/x+4</td>
<td>x-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x-4</td>
<td>x+5</td>
<td>x-9</td>
<td>1/x-7</td>
<td>x-5</td>
<td>x-8</td>
<td>1/x+5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x+6</td>
<td>1/x-8</td>
<td>1/x+3</td>
<td>x-2</td>
<td>1/x-3</td>
<td>x+4</td>
<td>x-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expression B:
\[
\frac{(3x^3 + 17x^2 + 20x)(2x^2 + 3x - 54)}{(3x^2 - 22x + 35)(2x^2 + 13x - 24)}
\]

<p>| | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2x-7</td>
<td>3x-7</td>
<td>1/x</td>
<td>x-6</td>
<td>x-4</td>
<td>1/2x-9</td>
<td>1/x+6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x-5</td>
<td>x+1</td>
<td>x-3</td>
<td>7x-1</td>
<td>1/x-5</td>
<td>1/2x+3</td>
<td>x+7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/x+8</td>
<td>1/x+5</td>
<td>3x-5</td>
<td>2x+9</td>
<td>2x-7</td>
<td>1/3x-7</td>
<td>4x+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/3x+2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expression A block</th>
<th>Given block</th>
<th>Expression B block</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 2 7 5 9 4 8 6 3</td>
<td>7 1 8 9 2 5 3 4 6</td>
<td>5 9 6 7 8 2 1 3 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 5 9 1 8 6 3 7 1 2</td>
<td>9 4 2 6 3 8 5 7 1</td>
<td>8 3 4 1 5 6 9 2 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8-4 Practice
Rational Expressions

Simplify each rational expression. State any restrictions on the variables.

1. \( \frac{4x + 6}{2x + 3} \); \( x \neq -\frac{3}{2} \)

2. \( \frac{2y}{y^2 + 6y} \); \( y \neq -6, 0 \)

3. \( \frac{20 + 40x}{20x} \); \( x \neq 0 \)

4. \( \frac{7x - 28}{x^2 - 16} \); \( x \neq 4 \)

5. \( \frac{3y^2 - 3}{y^2 - 1} \); \( y \neq \pm 1 \)

6. \( \frac{3x^2 - 12}{x^2 - x - 6} \); \( x \neq -2, 3 \)

7. \( \frac{x^2 + 3x - 18}{x^2 - 36} \); \( x \neq 3, x \neq 6 \)

8. \( \frac{x^2 + 13x + 40}{x^2 - 2x - 35} \); \( x \neq -5, 7 \)

Multiply. State any restrictions on the variables.

9. \( \frac{5a}{5a + 5} \cdot \frac{10a + 10}{a} \); \( a \neq -1, 0 \)

10. \( \frac{2x + 4}{10x} \cdot \frac{15x^2}{x + 2} \); \( x \neq 0, -2 \)

11. \( \frac{x^2 - 5x}{x^2 + 3x} \); \( x \neq -3, 0, 5 \)

12. \( \frac{x^2 - 6x}{x^2 - 36} \); \( x \neq 0, \pm 6 \)

13. \( \frac{5y - 20}{3y + 15} \); \( \frac{7y + 35}{10y + 40} \); \( \frac{7(y - 4)}{6(y + 4)} \); \( y \neq -5, -4 \)

14. \( \frac{x - 2}{(x + 2)^2} \); \( \frac{x + 2}{2x - 4} \); \( \frac{1}{2x + 4} \); \( x \neq \pm 2 \)

15. \( \frac{3x^3}{x^2 - 25} \); \( \frac{x^2 + 6x + 5}{x^2} \); \( \frac{3x^2 + 3x}{x - 5} \); \( x \neq 0, \pm 5 \)

16. \( \frac{y^2 - 2y}{y^2 + 7y - 18} \); \( \frac{y^2 - 81}{y^2 - 11y + 18} \); \( \frac{y}{y - 2} \); \( y \neq 2, \pm 9 \)

Divide. State any restrictions on the variables.

17. \( \frac{7x^4}{24y^5} \div \frac{21x}{6y^4} \); \( x, y \neq 0 \)

18. \( \frac{6x + 6}{7} \div \frac{4x + 4}{x - 2} \); \( \frac{3(x - 2)}{14} \); \( x \neq -1, 2 \)

19. \( \frac{5y}{2x^2} \div \frac{5y^2}{8x^2} \); \( \frac{4}{y} \); \( x, y \neq 0 \)

20. \( \frac{3y + 3}{6y + 12} \div \frac{18}{5y + 5} \); \( \frac{5(y + 1)^2}{36(y + 2)^2} \); \( y \neq -2, -1 \)

21. \( \frac{y^2 - 49}{(y - 7)^2} \div \frac{5y + 35}{y^2 - 7y} \); \( y \neq 0, \pm 7 \)

22. \( \frac{x^2 + 10x + 16}{x^2 - 6x - 16} \div \frac{x + 8}{x^2 - 64} \); \( x + 8; x \neq -2, \pm 8 \)

23. \( \frac{y^2 - 5y + 4}{y^2 - 1} \div \frac{y^2 - 9}{y^2 + 5y + 4} \)
   \( \frac{y^2 - 16}{y^2 - 9} \); \( y \neq \pm 1, \pm 3, -4 \)

24. \( \frac{x^2 - 4}{x^2 + 6x + 9} \div \frac{x^2 + 4x + 4}{x^2 - 9} \)
   \( \frac{x^2 - 5x + 6}{x^2 + 5x + 8} \); \( x \neq -2, \pm 3 \)
25. A farmer must decide whether to build a cylindrical grain silo or a rectangular grain silo. The cylindrical silo has radius \( r \). The rectangular silo has width \( r \) and length \( 2r \). Both silos have the same height \( h \).
   a. Write and simplify an expression for the ratio of the volume of the cylindrical silo to its surface area, including the circular floor and ceiling. \( \frac{rh}{2r + 2h} \)
   b. Write and simplify an expression for the ratio of the volume of the rectangular silo to its surface area, including the rectangular floor and ceiling. \( \frac{rh}{2r + 3h} \)
   c. Compare the ratios of volume to surface area for the two silos. \( \frac{rh}{2r + 2h} > \frac{rh}{2r + 3h} \)
   d. Compare the volumes of the two silos. \( V_{cyl} > V_{rect} \)
   e. Reasoning Assume the average cost of construction materials per square foot of surface area is the same for either silo. How can you measure the cost-effectiveness of each silo? Answers may vary. Sample: The surface area of a silo determines the cost to build the silo. Compare the ratios of the volume to the surface area of the silos.

Simplify each rational expression. State any restrictions on the variables.

26. \( \frac{2x^2 + 11x + 5}{3x^2 + 17x + 10}; x \neq -5, -\frac{2}{3} \)

27. \( \frac{6x^2 + 5xy - 6y^2}{3x^2 - 5xy + 2y^2}; x \neq y, \frac{2}{3}y \)

Multiply or divide. State any restrictions on the variables.

28. \( \frac{x^2 + 2x + 1}{x^2 - 1} \div \frac{x^2 + 3x + 2}{x^2 + 4x + 4}; x \neq -2, \pm 1 \)

29. \( \frac{x^2 - 3x - 10}{2x^2 - 11x + 5} \div \frac{x^2 - 5x + 6}{2x^2 - 7x + 3}; x \neq \frac{1}{2}, 2, 3, 5 \)

30. Reasoning A rectangle has area \( \frac{10b}{6b - 6} \) and length \( \frac{b + 2}{2b - 2} \). Write an expression for the width of the rectangle. \( \frac{10b}{3b + 6} \)

31. Open-Ended Write three rational expressions that simplify to \( \frac{x + 1}{x - 1} \).
   Answers may vary. Sample: \( \frac{x^2 + 2x + 1}{x^2 - 1}, \frac{x^2 + 3x + 2}{x^2 + x - 2}, \frac{x^2 - x - 2}{x^2 - 3x + 2} \)
Simplify each rational expression. State any restrictions on the variables.

1. \( \frac{-27x^3y}{9x^4y} \)
   \(-\frac{3}{x}; x \neq 0, y \neq 0\)

2. \( \frac{-6 + 3x}{x^2 - 6x + 8} \)
   \(\frac{3}{x - 4}; x \neq 2 \text{ or } 4\)

3. \( \frac{2x^2 - 3x - 2}{x^2 - 5x + 6} \)
   \(\frac{2x + 1}{x - 3}; x \neq 3 \text{ or } 2\)

Multiply. State any restrictions on the variables.

To start, factor all polynomials.

4. \( \frac{4x^2 - 1}{2x^2 - 5x - 3} \) \( \cdot \) \( \frac{x^2 - 6x + 9}{2x^2 + 5x - 3} \)
   \( \frac{(2x + 1)(2x - 1)}{(2x + 1)(x - 3)} \) \( \cdot \) \( \frac{(x - 3)(x - 3)}{(2x - 1)(x + 3)} \)
   \(x - \frac{3}{x + 3}; x \neq \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, 3, -3\)

5. \( \frac{2x^2 + 7x + 3}{x - 4} \) \( \cdot \) \( \frac{x^2 - 16}{x^2 + 8x + 15} \)
   \( \frac{(2x + 1)(x + 4)}{x + 5}; x \neq 4, -5, -3\)

6. \( \frac{4x^2}{5y} \) \( \cdot \) \( \frac{-7y}{12x^4} \)
   \(\frac{-7}{15x^2}; x \neq 0, y \neq 0\)

Divide. State any restrictions on the variables.

To start, rewrite the division as multiplication by the reciprocal.

7. \( \frac{16x^5}{3y^3} \div \frac{8x^3}{9y^2} \)
   \(\frac{16x^5}{3y^3} \cdot \frac{9y^2}{8x^3}; x \neq 0, y \neq 0\)

8. \( \frac{x^2 + 2x - 15}{x^2 - 16} \div \frac{x + 1}{3x - 12} \)
   \( \frac{3(x + 5)(x - 3)}{(x + 4)(x + 1)} \)
   \(x \neq 4, -1, \text{ or } -4\)

9. \( \frac{3y - 12}{2y + 4} \div \frac{6y - 24}{4y + 8} \)
   \(1; y \neq -2 \text{ or } 4\)
10. Your school wants to build a courtyard surrounded by a low brick wall. It wants the maximum area for a given amount of brick wall. The courtyard can be either a circle or an equilateral triangle. Which shape would have the greater area to perimeter ratio?

\[ \text{circle} \]

Simplify each rational expression. State any restrictions on the variables.

11. \[ \frac{x^2 - 2x - 8}{3x^2 + 4x - 4} = \frac{x - 4}{3x - 2}; x \neq -2 \text{ or } \frac{2}{3} \]
12. \[ \frac{6x + 15}{2x^2 + 3x - 5} = \frac{3}{x - 1}; x \neq 1 \text{ or } -\frac{5}{2} \]
13. \[ \frac{x^2 - y^2}{6x^2 + 6xy} = \frac{x - y}{6x}; x \neq 0, -y \]

14. **Writing** How can you tell whether a rational expression is in simplest form? Include an example with your explanation.

Answers may vary. Sample: A rational expression is in simplest form when the numerator and denominator have no common factors; \[ \frac{x + 1}{x - 1} \].

15. The width of a rectangle is given by the expression \[ \frac{x + 10}{3x + 24} \] and the area can be represented by \[ \frac{2x + 20}{6x + 15} \]. What is the length of the rectangle?

\[ \frac{2(x + 8)}{2x + 5} \]

16. **Multiple Choice** Which expression can be simplified to \[ \frac{x - 1}{x - 3} \]?

- A \[ \frac{x^2 - x - 6}{x^2 - x - 2} \]
- B \[ \frac{x^2 - 2x + 1}{x^2 + 2x - 3} \]
- C \[ \frac{x^2 - 3x - 4}{x^2 - 7x + 12} \]
- D \[ \frac{x^2 - 4x + 3}{x^2 - 6x + 9} \]
In previous lessons, you learned how to graph reciprocal functions of the form 
\[ f(x) = \frac{a}{x - h} + k \]. You learned that graphs of reciprocal functions have a 
horizontal asymptote at \( y = k \) and a vertical asymptote at \( x = h \). For other types 
of rational functions, the asymptotes are not as easily determined.

1. Explain why the reciprocal function \( f(x) = \frac{1}{x} \) is not the parent graph of \( f(x) = \frac{\frac{x^2}{2} + 2x - 3}{\frac{x^2}{2} - 5x - 6} \).

   *Answers may vary. Sample: The function cannot be simplified so there is no \( x^2 \)-term in the denominator.*

2. For rational functions, vertical asymptotes are lines located at the value(s) of 
   \( x \) that make the denominator 0. Write the equations of the vertical asymptotes 
   for the rational function \( f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 2x - 3}{x^2 - 5x - 6} \).

   \( x = 6 \) and \( x = -1 \)

3. Use a graphing calculator to graph the rational function \( f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 2x - 3}{x^2 - 5x - 6} \).
   Use your graph to check if your vertical asymptotes are correct.
   How does your graph confirm that the reciprocal function \( f(x) = \frac{1}{x} \) 
is not the parent graph?

   *Answers may vary. Sample: The graph of the rational function is not a 
   transformation of the graph of the reciprocal function.*

4. What are the vertical asymptotes for the rational function \( f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 3x + 2}{x^2 - 5x + 6} \)?
   Confirm that these are the vertical asymptotes by graphing the function. What 
do you notice? \( x = 3 \); the graph has a vertical asymptote at \( x = 3 \), not at \( x = 2 \).

5. From the graph of the function in Exercise 4, you saw that even though \( x = 2 \) 
made the denominator equal 0, it was not an asymptote. A value such as this 
creates a hole in the graph, and is called a removable discontinuity. The value is not 
part of the domain, yet it is not a vertical asymptote. Factor the rational expression 
\( \frac{x^2 - 3x + 2}{x^2 - 5x + 6} \) and use your results to explain why \( x = 2 \) is not an asymptote.

   *Answers may vary. Sample: The expression simplifies to \( \frac{x - 1}{x - 3} \). The domain of the 
   original expression does not include 2, but it can be included in the final simplified expression.*

6. For the rational function \( f(x) = \frac{2x^2 - 7x - 4}{x^2 + x - 20} \), algebraically determine the location of 
   the vertical asymptote and the value at which there is a removable discontinuity.

   *vertical asymptote at \( x = -5 \); removable discontinuity at \( x = 4 \)
8-5  Additional Vocabulary Support
Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions

The column on the left shows the steps used to subtract two rational expressions. Use the column on the left to answer each question in the column on the right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>What is the difference of the two rational expressions in simplest form? State any restrictions on the variable.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|         | \[
\frac{2}{x^2 - 36} - \frac{1}{x^2 + 6x}
\] |

Factor the denominators.

\[
\frac{2}{(x - 6)(x + 6)} - \frac{1}{x(x + 6)}
\]

Rewrite each expression with the LCD.

\[
\frac{2}{(x - 6)(x + 6)} \cdot \frac{x}{x} - \frac{1}{x(x + 6)} \cdot \frac{(x - 6)}{(x - 6)}
\]

Add the numerators. Combine like terms.

\[
\frac{x + 6}{x(x - 6)(x + 6)}
\]

Divide out the common factors.

\[
\frac{x + 6}{x(x - 6)(x + 6)} = \frac{1}{x(x - 6)}
\]

The difference of the expressions is \[
\frac{1}{x(x - 6)}
\] for \(x \neq 0, x \neq 6, x \neq -6\).

1. Read the problem. What process are you going to use to solve the problem?

Find the difference of two rational expressions.

2. Why do you factor the denominators?

To determine the common denominator.

3. What does LCD stand for?

Least Common Denominator

4. Why is the numerator \(x + 6\)?

\(2x - (x - 6) = 2x - x + 6 = x + 6\)

5. Why is the numerator equal to 1?

When simplifying, you divide \(x + 6\) by itself, so the answer is 1.

6. Why are 0, 6, and \(-6\) restrictions on the variable?

These values make at least one of the original denominators equal zero.
Reteaching
Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions

Adding and subtracting rational expressions is a lot like adding and subtracting fractions. Before you can add or subtract the expressions, they must have a common denominator. The easiest common denominator to work with is the least common denominator, or LCD.

**Problem**

What is the LCD of \( \frac{6x}{x^3 + 2x^2} \) and \( \frac{5}{x^3 + x^2 - 2x} \)?

\[
x^3 + 2x^2 = x^2(x + 2)
\]
\[
x^3 + x^2 - 2x = x(x^2 + x - 2) = x(x + 2)(x - 1)
\]

- Completely factor each denominator.
- Make a list of all the factors.
- Cross off any repeated factors.
- When the only difference between factors is the exponent (like \( x^2 \) and \( x \)), cross off all but the factor with the greatest exponent.
- Multiply the remaining factors on the list. The product is the LCD.

The LCD of \( \frac{6x}{x^3 + 2x^2} \) and \( \frac{5}{x^3 + x^2 - 2x} \) is \( x^2(x + 2)(x - 1) \).

**Exercises**

Assume that the polynomials given are the denominators of rational expressions. Find the LCD of each set.

1. \( x + 3 \) and \( 2x + 6 \) \( 2(x + 3) \)
2. \( 2x - 1 \) and \( 3x + 4 \) \( (2x - 1)(3x + 4) \)
3. \( x^2 - 4 \) and \( x + 2 \) \( (x + 2)(x - 2) \)
4. \( x^2 + 7x + 12 \) and \( x + 4 \) \( (x + 3)(x + 4) \)
5. \( x^2 + 5 \) and \( x - 25 \) \( (x^2 + 5)(x - 25) \)
6. \( x^3 \) and \( 6x^2 \) \( 6x^3 \)
7. \( x, 2x, \) and \( 4x^3 \) \( 4x^3 \)
8. \( x^2 + 8x + 16 \) and \( x + 4 \) \( (x + 4)^2 \)
9. \( x^2 + 4x - 5 \) and \( x^3 - x^2 \) \( x^2(x - 1)(x + 5) \)
10. \( x^2 - 9 \) and \( x^2 + 2x - 3 \) \( (x + 3)(x - 3)(x - 1) \)
8-5  **Reteaching (continued)**

Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions

To find the sum or difference of rational expressions with unlike denominators:
- completely factor each denominator
- identify the least common denominator, or LCD
- multiply each expression by the factors needed to produce the LCD
- add or subtract numerators, and put the result over the LCD

**Problem**

What is the difference of $\frac{2x}{3x^2 + 5x} - \frac{14}{3x^2 + 26x + 35}$ in simplest form? State any restrictions on the variable.

$$3x^2 + 5x = x(3x + 5)$$
$$3x^2 + 26x + 35 = (3x + 5)(x + 7)$$

$\frac{2x}{x(3x + 5)} \cdot \frac{(x + 7)}{(x + 7)} - \frac{14}{(3x + 5)(x + 7)} \cdot \frac{x}{x}$

Completely factor each denominator.
Identify the LCD.
Multiply to produce the LCD.
Subtract the numerators.
Distribute.
Simplify.

$$= \frac{2x(x + 7)}{x(3x + 5)(x + 7)} - \frac{14x}{x(3x + 5)(x + 7)}$$
$$= \frac{2x(x + 7) - 14x}{x(3x + 5)(x + 7)}$$
$$= \frac{2x^2 + 14x - 14x}{x(3x + 5)(x + 7)}$$
$$= \frac{2x}{3x^2 + 26x + 35}$$

Therefore, $\frac{2x}{3x^2 + 5x} - \frac{14}{3x^2 + 26x + 35} = \frac{2x}{3x^2 + 26x + 35}$, where $x \neq -7, \frac{-5}{3}, 0$.

**Exercises**

Simplify each sum or difference. State any restrictions on the variable.

11. $\frac{y}{y - 1} + \frac{2}{1 - y}; y \neq 1$
12. $\frac{3}{x + 2} + \frac{2}{x^2 - 4}; \frac{3x - 4}{(x + 2)(x - 2)}, x \neq \pm 2$

13. $\frac{x}{x^2 + 5x + 6} - \frac{2}{x^2 + 3x + 2}$

14. $\frac{4x + 1}{x^2 - 4} - \frac{3}{x - 2}$

$\frac{x - 5}{(x + 2)(x - 2)}, x \neq \pm 2$
8-5  Reteaching (continued)

Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions

To find the sum or difference of rational expressions with unlike denominators:
- completely factor each denominator
- identify the least common denominator, or LCD
- multiply each expression by the factors needed to produce the LCD
- add or subtract numerators, and put the result over the LCD

**Problem**

What is the difference of \( \frac{2x}{3x^2 + 5x} - \frac{14}{3x^2 + 26x + 35} \) in simplest form? State any restrictions on the variable.

\[
\begin{align*}
3x^2 + 5x &= x(3x + 5) \\
3x^2 + 26x + 35 &= (3x + 5)(x + 7)
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\frac{2x}{x(3x + 5)} \cdot \frac{(x + 7)}{(x + 7)} - \frac{14}{(3x + 5)(x + 7)} \cdot \frac{x}{x}
\]

Completely factor each denominator.

Identify the LCD.

Multiply to produce the LCD.

\[
\begin{align*}
2x(x + 7) - 14x \\
\cancel{x(3x + 5)(x + 7)} &- x(3x + 5)(x + 7)
\end{align*}
\]

Subtract the numerators.

Distribute.

\[
\begin{align*}
2x(x + 7) - 14x \\
\frac{2x^2 + 14x}{x(3x + 5)(x + 7)} - 14x
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{2x^2 + 14x}{x(3x + 5)(x + 7)} - 14x
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
2x - 14x \\
\frac{2x}{3x^2 + 26x + 35}
\end{align*}
\]

Simplify.

Therefore, \( \frac{2x}{3x^2 + 5x} - \frac{14}{3x^2 + 26x + 35} = \frac{2x}{3x^2 + 26x + 35} \), where \( x \neq -7, -\frac{5}{3}, 0 \).

**Exercises**

Simplify each sum or difference. State any restrictions on the variable.

11. \( \frac{y}{y - 1} + \frac{2}{1 - y} \); \( y \neq 1 \)

12. \( \frac{3}{x + 2} + \frac{2}{x^2 - 4} \); \( x \neq \pm 2 \)

13. \( \frac{x}{x^2 + 5x + 6} - \frac{2}{x^2 + 3x + 2} \)

14. \( \frac{4x + 1}{x^2 - 4} - \frac{3}{x - 2} \)

\( \frac{x - 5}{(x + 2)(x - 2)} \); \( x \neq \pm 2 \)
8-5  Think About a Plan
Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions

**Optics**  To read small font, you use the magnifying lens with the focal length 3 in. How far from the magnifying lens should you place the page if you want to hold the lens at 1 foot from your eyes? Use the thin-lens equation.

**Know**
1. The focal length of the magnifying lens is $3\text{ in.}$.
2. The distance from the lens to your eyes is $12\text{ in.}$.
3. The thin-lens equation is $\frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{d_i} + \frac{1}{d_o}$.

**Need**
4. To solve the problem I need to find:
   the distance from the page to the lens

**Plan**
5. What variables in the thin-lens equation have values that are known?
   $f$ is the focal length of the lens, or 3 in.; $d_i$ is the distance from the lens to the eyes, or 12 in.

6. Solve the thin-lens equation for the variable whose value is unknown. $d_o = \frac{fd_i}{d_i - f}$

7. Substitute the known values into your equation and simplify. $d_o = \frac{fd_i}{d_i - f} = \frac{3 \cdot 12}{12 - 3} = \frac{36}{9} = 4$

8. How far from the page should you hold the magnifying lens? 4 in.
8-5 **Activity: Graphing Calculator Check**

Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions

This activity can be done in groups of two or three students. Discuss each group’s results once everyone is finished.

**Example:** Use your graphing calculator to add the following rational expressions.

\[
\frac{x}{x + 4} + \frac{3}{x - 3}
\]

**Step 1** Enter \(Y_1 = \frac{x}{x + 4}\)  
Turn on the \(Y_3\) function only. (You switch a function on or off by moving the cursor over the equals sign and pressing ENTER. A highlighted equals sign means that a function is turned on.) Graph \(Y_3\) (see Figures 1 and 2).

**Step 2** Enter \(Y_2 = \frac{3}{x - 3}\)

**Step 3** Enter \(Y_3 = Y_1 + Y_2\)

**Step 4** Add \(\frac{x}{x + 4} + \frac{3}{x - 3}\)  
\[
= \frac{x(x - 3)}{(x + 4)(x - 3)} + \frac{3(x + 4)}{(x + 4)(x - 3)}
= \frac{x^2 - 3x + 3(x + 4)}{(x + 4)(x - 3)}
= \frac{x^2 + 12}{(x + 4)(x - 3)}
\]

**Step 5** On another calculator; have a classmate enter \(Y_4 = \frac{x^2 + 12}{(x + 4)(x - 3)}\) (see Figures 3 and 4).

Since these graphs coincide, you can conclude the addition was performed correctly.

### Figures

**Figure 1**

**Figure 2**

**Figure 3**

**Figure 4**

Repeat this process for the following expressions.

1. \(\frac{2}{x + 3} + \frac{2}{x - 3}\)  
   \(\frac{4x}{(x - 3)(x + 3)}\)

2. \(\frac{2}{x - 2} - \frac{2}{x + 2}\)  
   \(\frac{8}{(x - 2)(x + 2)}\)

3. \(\frac{1}{x^2 - 4x} + \frac{x}{x^2 - 16}\)  
   \(\frac{x^2 + x + 4}{(x)(x - 4)(x + 4)}\)

4. \(\frac{10}{x^2 - 3x - 10} - \frac{10}{x^2 + 3x - 10}\)  
   \(\frac{60x}{(x - 5)(x + 2)(x + 5)(x - 2)}\)
8-5 Practice
Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions

Find the least common multiple of each pair of polynomials.

1. \(3x(x + 2)\) and \(6x(2x - 3)\)
   \(6x(x + 2)(2x - 3)\)

2. \(2x^2 - 8x + 8\) and \(3x^2 + 27x - 30\)
   \(6(x - 1)(x - 2)^2(x + 10)\)

3. \(4x^2 + 12x + 9\) and \(4x^2 - 9\)
   \((2x + 3)^2(2x - 3)\)

4. \(2x^2 - 18\) and \(5x^3 + 30x^2 + 45x\)
   \(10(x + 3)^2(x - 3)\)

Simplify each sum or difference. State any restrictions on the variables.

5. \(\frac{x^2}{5} + \frac{y^2}{5} \cdot \frac{2x^2}{5}\)

6. \(\frac{6y - 4}{y^2 - 5} + \frac{3y + 1}{y^2 - 5} \cdot \frac{3(y - 1)}{y^2 - 5}; y \neq \pm \sqrt{5}\)

7. \(\frac{2y + 1}{3y} + \frac{5y + 4}{3y} \cdot \frac{7y + 5}{3y}; y \neq 0\)

8. \(\frac{12}{xy^3} - \frac{9}{xy} \cdot \frac{3}{xy^3}; x, y \neq 0\)

9. \(-\frac{2}{n + 4} - \frac{n^2}{n^2 - 16} \cdot \frac{2 - n}{n - 4}; n \neq \pm 4\)

10. \(\frac{3}{8x^3y^3} - \frac{1}{4xy} \cdot \frac{3 - 2x^2y^2}{8x^3y^3}; x, y \neq 0\)

11. \(\frac{6}{5x^2y} + \frac{5}{10xy^2} \cdot \frac{12y + 5x}{10x^2y^2}; x, y \neq 0\)

12. \(\frac{x + 2}{x^2 + 4x + 4} + \frac{2}{x + 2} \cdot \frac{3}{x + 2}; x \neq -2\)

13. \(\frac{4}{x^2 - 25} + \frac{6}{x^2 + 6x + 5} \cdot \frac{10x - 26}{(x + 5)(x - 5)(x + 1)}; x \neq -1, \pm 5\)

14. \(\frac{y}{4y + 8} - \frac{1}{y^2 + 2y} \cdot \frac{y - 2}{y}; y \neq -2, 0\)

Simplify each complex fraction.

15. \(\frac{\frac{2}{x}}{\frac{3}{y}} \cdot \frac{2y}{3x}\)

16. \(\frac{\frac{1 + 2}{x}}{\frac{4 - 6}{x}} \cdot \frac{x + 2}{4x - 6}\)

17. \(\frac{\frac{1}{x - 2}}{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \frac{x}{2x^2 - 3x - 2}\)

18. \(\frac{\frac{3}{x + 1}}{\frac{5}{x}} \cdot \frac{3x - 3}{5x + 5}\)

19. \(\frac{\frac{x^2 - 1}{3}}{\frac{3}{x - 3}} \cdot \frac{4}{3x - 3}\)

20. \(\frac{\frac{1 + 2}{3}}{\frac{4}{9}} \cdot \frac{15}{4}\)

21. \(\frac{\frac{2}{x} + 6}{\frac{1}{y}} \cdot \frac{2y + 6xy}{x}\)

22. \(\frac{\frac{x + 3}{x - 3}}{\frac{x^2 - 9}{3x - 9}} \cdot \frac{3}{x - 3}\)

23. \(\frac{\frac{5}{x + 3}}{\frac{2}{x + 3}} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{5}{2x + 7}\)
Find the least common multiple of each pair of polynomials.

To start, completely factor each expression.

1. \(4x^2 - 36\) and \(6x^2 + 36x + 54\)
   \((2)(2)(x - 3)(x + 3)\) and \((2)(3)(x + 3)(x + 3)\)
   \(12(x - 3)(x + 3)^2\)

2. \((x - 2)(x + 3)\) and \(10(x + 3)^2\)
   \(10(x - 2)(x + 3)^2\)

Simplify each sum or difference. State any restrictions on the variables.

To start, factor the denominators and identify the LCD.

3. \(\frac{6x - 1}{x^2y} + \frac{3y + 2}{2xy}\)
   \(\frac{6x - 1}{(x)(x)(y)} + \frac{3y + 2}{(2)(x)(y)}\)
   \(\frac{14x + 3xy - 2}{2x^2y}; x \neq 0, y \neq 0\)

4. \(\frac{1}{x^2 - 4x - 12} - \frac{3x}{4x + 8}\)
   \(\frac{1}{4(x + 2)(x - 6)}; x \neq -6, -2\)

5. \(\frac{2x}{x^2 + 5x + 4} + \frac{2x}{3x + 3}\)
   \(\frac{2x^2 + 14x}{3(x + 1)(x + 4)}; x \neq -4, -1\)

Add or subtract. Simplify where possible. State any restrictions on the variables.

6. \(\frac{x + 2}{x - 1} + \frac{x - 3}{2x + 1}\)
   \(\frac{3x^2 + x + 5}{(2x + 1)(x - 1)}; x \neq 1\) or \(\frac{-1}{2}\)

7. \(\frac{x}{x^2 - x} + \frac{1}{x}\)
   \(\frac{2x - 1}{x(x - 1)}; x \neq 0\) or \(1\)

8. \(4y - \frac{y + 2}{y^2 + 3y}\)
   \(\frac{4y^3 + 12y^2 - y - 2}{y^2 + 3y}; y \neq 0\) or \(-3\)

9. **Error Analysis** A classmate said that the sum of \(\frac{4}{x^2 - 9}\) and \(\frac{7}{x + 3}\) is \(\frac{7x + 25}{x^2 - 9}\).

   What mistake did your classmate make? What is the correct sum?
   
The classmate multiplied the second term by \(\frac{x + 3}{x + 3}\) instead of \(\frac{x - 3}{x - 3}\). The correct sum is \(\frac{7x - 17}{x^2 - 9}\).
Simplify each complex fraction.

To start, multiply the numerator and the denominator by the LCD of all the rational expressions.

10. \[
\frac{\frac{1}{x} + 3}{\frac{3}{y} + 4} \cdot \frac{xy}{xy}
\]
\[
\frac{\frac{y + 3xy}{5x + 4xy}}{\frac{5 + xy}{5x + 4xy}}
\]

11. \[
\frac{-3}{\frac{3}{x} + y} \cdot \frac{\frac{3x}{5 + xy}}{\frac{4(x - 1)}{3(x + 2)}}
\]

12. \[
\frac{\frac{4}{x + 2}}{\frac{3}{x - 1}} \cdot \frac{\frac{x + 2}{3(x + 2)}}{\frac{x + 3}{x + 4}}
\]

13. **Reasoning** What real numbers are not in the domain of the function \(f(x) = \frac{x + 1}{\frac{24}{x^2} + \frac{x + 3}{x + 4}}\)? Explain.

\(x \neq -2, -3, -4\); any of these values of \(x\) make a denominator zero, causing a fraction to be undefined, so they are not in the domain of the function.

14. If you jog 12 mi at an average rate of 4 mi/h and walk the same route back at an average rate of 3 mi/h, you have traveled 24 mi in 7 h and your overall rate is \(\frac{24}{7}\) mi/h. What is your overall average rate if you travel \(d\) mi at 3 mi/h and \(d\) mi at 4 mi/h?

\(\frac{24}{7}\) mi/h

15. **Multiple Choice** Simplify \(\frac{\frac{2}{x} - 5}{\frac{6}{x} - 3}\).

A. \(\frac{2 - 5x}{6 - 3x}\)

B. \(\frac{2 + 5x}{6 - 3x}\)

C. \(\frac{2x - 5}{6x + 3}\)

D. \(\frac{6 + 3x}{2 - 5x}\)
8-5 Enrichment
Adding and Subtracting Rational Expressions

The Superposition Principle

The illumination received from a light source is given by the formula

\[ I = S \cdot D^{-2} \quad \text{or} \quad I = \frac{S}{D^2} \]

where \( I \) is the illumination at a certain point, \( S \) is the strength of the light source, measured in watts or kilowatts, and \( D \) is the distance of the point from the light source. The superposition principle states that the total illumination received at a given point from two sources is equal to the sum of the illuminations from each of the sources.

Suppose a plant is positioned at point \( A \). Copy and complete the following to find the total illumination received by the plant when both lights are on.

\[ I_{\text{total}} = I_{L1} + I_{L2} \]

\[ = \frac{100}{2^2} + \frac{200}{3^2} \]

\[ = 25 + 22.2 \]

\[ = 47.2 \quad \text{Round to the nearest tenth.} \]

1. The amount of illumination received by the plant is _about 47.2 watts/m}^2_.

Lighthouse A, located on an ocean shore, uses a 10-kW light. Lighthouse B uses a 20-kW light and is located 8 km out to sea from a point 6 km down the beach from Lighthouse A.

2. A man is walking down the beach away from lighthouse A and toward point C. When he is \( x \) kilometers away from lighthouse A and has not yet reached point C, write the illumination he receives as a function of \( x \) in simplest form.

\[ \frac{30x^2 - 120x + 1000}{x^2 - 12x + 100} \text{ watts/m}^2 \]

3. Now suppose that the man is \( x \) kilometers beyond point C as he walks down the beach. What illumination does he receive, written as a function of \( x \) in simplest form?

\[ \frac{30x^2 + 240x + 1360}{(x^2 + 12x + 36)(x^2 + 64)} \text{ watts/m}^2 \]
8-6 Additional Vocabulary Support

Solving Rational Equations

**Problem**

What are the solutions of the rational equation? Justify your steps.

\[
\frac{x}{x - 2} + \frac{1}{x - 4} = \frac{2}{x^2 - 6x + 8}
\]

Write original equation.

\[
\frac{x}{x - 2} + \frac{1}{x - 4} = \frac{2}{(x - 2)(x - 4)}
\]

Factor the denominators to find the LCD.

\[(x - 2)(x - 4)\left[\frac{x}{x - 2} + \frac{1}{x - 4}\right] = (x - 2)(x - 4)\left[\frac{2}{(x - 2)(x - 4)}\right]
\]

Multiply each side by the LCD to clear the denominators.

\[x(x - 4) + 1(x - 2) = 2\]

Distribute and simplify.

\[x^2 - 4x + x - 2 = 2\]

Distribute.

\[x^2 - 3x - 4 = 0\]

Simplify.

\[(x - 4)(x + 1) = 0\]

Factor the quadratic.

\[x = 4 \text{ or } x = -1\]

Solve for \(x\).

\(x = 4\) causes division by 0, so \(x = 4\) is an extraneous solution. Check for extraneous solutions.

Because \(-\frac{1}{1 - 2} + \frac{1}{-1 - 4} = \frac{2}{(-1)^2 - 6(-1) + 8}\), the solution is \(x = -1\).

**Exercise**

What are the solutions of the rational equation? Justify the steps.

\[
\frac{5}{x} + \frac{4}{x + 3} = \frac{8}{x^2 + 3x}
\]

Write the original equation.

\[
\frac{5}{x} + \frac{4}{x + 3} = \frac{8}{x(x + 3)}
\]

Factor the denominator to find the LCD.

\[x(x + 3)\left[\frac{5}{x} + \frac{4}{x + 3}\right] = x(x + 3)\left[\frac{8}{x(x + 3)}\right]
\]

Multiply each side by the LCD.

\[9x + 15 = 8\]

Distribute and simplify.

\[x = -\frac{7}{9}\]

Solve.
8-6 Reteaching
Solving Rational Equations

When one or both sides of a rational equation has a sum or difference, multiply each side of the equation by the LCD to eliminate the fractions.

Problem

What is the solution of the rational equation \( \frac{6}{x} + \frac{x}{2} = 4 \)? Check the solutions.

\[
2x \left( \frac{6}{x} \right) + 2x \left( \frac{x}{2} \right) = 2x(4) \quad \text{Multiply each term on both sides by the LCD, 2x.}
\]

\[
2 \left( \frac{6}{x} \right) + 2 \left( \frac{x}{2} \right) = 2 \cdot 4 \quad \text{Divide out the common factors.}
\]

\[
12 + x^2 = 8x \quad \text{Simplify.}
\]

\[
x^2 - 8x + 12 = 0 \quad \text{Write the equation in standard form.}
\]

\[(x - 2)(x - 6) = 0 \quad \text{Factor.}
\]

\[x - 2 = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x - 6 = 0 \quad \text{Use the Zero-Product Property.}
\]

\[x = 2 \quad \text{or} \quad x = 6 \quad \text{Solve for x.}
\]

Check

\[
\frac{6}{x} + \frac{x}{2} \neq 4 \quad \frac{6}{x} + \frac{x}{2} \neq 4
\]

\[
\frac{6}{2} + \frac{2}{2} \neq 4 \quad \frac{6}{6} + \frac{6}{2} \neq 4
\]

\[
3 + 1 \neq 4 \quad 1 + 3 \neq 4
\]

\[
4 = 4 \quad 4 = 4
\]

The solutions are \( x = 2 \) and \( x = 6 \).

Exercises

Solve each equation. Check the solutions.

1. \[\frac{10}{x + 3} + \frac{10}{3} = 6 \quad \frac{3}{4} \]
2. \[\frac{1}{x - 3} = \frac{x - 4}{x^2 - 27} \quad \frac{39}{7} \]
3. \[\frac{6}{x - 1} + \frac{2x}{x - 2} = 2 \quad \frac{8}{5} \]

4. \[\frac{7}{3x - 12} - \frac{1}{x - 4} = \frac{2}{3} \quad 6 \]
5. \[\frac{2x}{5} = \frac{x^2 - 5x}{5x} \quad \frac{-5}{6} \]
6. \[\frac{8(x - 1)}{x^2 - 4} = \frac{4}{x - 2} \quad 4 \]

7. \[x + \frac{4}{x} = \frac{25}{6} \quad \frac{3}{2} \quad \frac{8}{3} \quad \text{no solution} \]
8. \[\frac{2}{x} + \frac{6}{x - 1} = \frac{6}{x^2 - x} \]

9. \[\frac{2}{x} + \frac{1}{x} = 3 \quad 1 \]

10. \[\frac{4}{x - 1} = \frac{5}{x - 1} + 2 \quad \frac{1}{2} \]
11. \[\frac{1}{x} = \frac{5}{2x} + 3 \quad \frac{-1}{2} \]

12. \[\frac{x + 6}{5} = \frac{2x - 4}{5} - 3 \quad 25 \]
You often can use rational equations to model and solve problems involving rates.

**Problem**

Quinn can refinish hardwood floors four times as fast as his apprentice, Jack. They are refishing 100 ft² of flooring. Working together, Quinn and Jack can finish the job in 3 h. How long would it take each of them working alone to refinish the floor?

Let \( x \) be Jack’s work rate in ft²/h. Quinn’s work rate is four times faster, or 4\( x \).

\[
\text{square feet refinished per hour by Jack and Quinn together} = \text{square feet of floor they refinish together} \div \text{hours worked together}
\]

\[
\text{ft}^2/\text{h} = \text{ft}^2 + \text{h}
\]

\[
x + 4x = \frac{100}{3} \quad \text{Their work rates sum to 100 ft}^2 \text{ in 3 h.}
\]

\[
3(x) + 3(4x) = 3\left(\frac{100}{3}\right) \quad \text{They work for 3 h. Refinished floor area = rate \times time.}
\]

\[
15x = 100 \quad \text{Simplify.}
\]

\[
x = 6.67 \quad \text{Divide each side by 15.}
\]

Jack works at the rate of 6.67 ft²/h. Quinn works at the rate of 26.67 ft²/h.

Let \( j \) be the number of hours Jack takes to refinish the floor alone, and let \( q \) be the number of hours Quinn takes to refinish the floor alone.

\[
6.67 = \frac{100}{j} \quad \quad \quad 26.67 = \frac{100}{q}
\]

\[
j(6.67) = j\left(\frac{100}{j}\right) \quad \quad \quad q(26.67) = q\left(\frac{100}{q}\right)
\]

\[
6.67j = 100 \quad \quad \quad 26.67q = 100
\]

\[
j = 15 \quad \quad \quad q = 3.75
\]

Jack would take 15 h and Quinn would take 3.75 h to refinish the floor alone.

**Exercises**

13. An airplane flies from its home airport to a city and back in 5 h flying time. The plane travels the 720 mi to the city at 295 mi/h with no wind. How strong is the wind on the return flight? Is the wind a headwind or a tailwind? about 14 mi/h; headwind

14. Miguel can complete the decorations for a school dance in 5 days working alone. Nasim can do it alone in 3 days, and Denise can do it alone in 4 days. How long would it take the three students working together to decorate? about 1.3 days
Think About a Plan
Solving Rational Equations

Storage One pump can fill a tank with oil in 4 hours. A second pump can fill the same tank in 3 hours. If both pumps are used at the same time, how long will they take to fill the tank?

Understanding the Problem

1. How long does it take the first pump to fill the tank? 4 h

2. How long does it take the second pump to fill the tank? 3 h

3. What is the problem asking you to determine?

the length of time it takes for both pumps to fill the tank when used at the same time

Planning the Solution

4. If \( V \) is the volume of the tank, what expressions represent the portion of the tank that each pump can fill in one hour?

First pump: \( \frac{1}{4}V \)  
Second pump: \( \frac{1}{3}V \)

5. What expression represents the part of the tank the two pumps can fill in one hour if they are used at the same time?

\( \frac{1}{4}V + \frac{1}{3}V \)

6. Let \( t \) be the number of hours. Write an equation to find the time it takes for the two pumps to fill one tank.

\( \left( \frac{1}{4}V + \frac{1}{3}V \right) t = V \)

Getting an Answer

7. Solve your equation to find how long the pumps will take to fill the tank if both pumps are used at the same time.

\[ \left( \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{3} \right)t = \frac{7}{12}t = 1 \]

\[ \frac{12}{7} = 1 \frac{5}{7} \text{ hours} \]
8-6 Practice
Solving Rational Equations

Solve each equation. Check each solution.

1. \( \frac{x}{3} + \frac{x}{2} = 10 \) 12
2. \( \frac{1}{x} - \frac{x}{9} = 0 \) ±3
3. \( \frac{3x + 1}{x + 1} = \frac{5}{17} \)
4. \( \frac{4}{x} = \frac{x}{4} \) ±4
5. \( \frac{3x}{4} = \frac{5x + 1}{3} \) -4 11
6. \( \frac{3}{2x - 3} = \frac{1}{5} - \frac{9}{4} \)
7. \( \frac{x - 4}{3} = \frac{x - 2}{2} \) -2
8. \( \frac{2x - 1}{x + 3} = \frac{5}{3} \) 18
9. \( \frac{2y}{5} + \frac{2}{6} = \frac{y}{2} - \frac{1}{6} \) 5
10. \( \frac{1}{2x + 2} + \frac{5}{x^2 - 1} = \frac{1}{x - 1} \) 7
11. \( \frac{2}{x + 3} + \frac{5}{3 - x} = \frac{6}{x^2 - 9} \) -9

12. An airplane flies from its home airport to a city 510 mi away and back. The total flying time for the round-trip flight is 3.9 h. The plane travels the first half of the trip at 255 mi/h with no wind.
   a. How strong is the wind on the return flight? Round your answer to the nearest tenth. About 13.4 mi/h
   b. Is the wind on the return flight a headwind or a tailwind? Tailwind

Use a graphing calculator to solve each equation. Check each solution.

13. \( \frac{x - 1}{6} = \frac{x}{4} \) -2
14. \( \frac{x - 2}{10} = \frac{x - 7}{5} \) 12
15. \( \frac{4}{x + 3} = \frac{10}{2x - 1} \) -17
16. \( \frac{3}{3 - x} = \frac{4}{2 - x} \) 6
17. \( \frac{3y}{5} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{y}{10} \) -1
18. \( \frac{9}{x + 1} = 6 \) -5
19. \( \frac{2}{3} + \frac{3x - 1}{6} = \frac{5}{2} \) 4
20. \( \frac{4}{x - 1} = \frac{5}{x - 2} \) -3
21. \( \frac{1}{x} - \frac{2}{x + 3} = 0 \) 3

Solve each equation for the given variable.

22. \( h = \frac{2A}{b} \); \( b = \frac{2A}{h} \)
23. \( f = \frac{1}{d_1} + \frac{1}{d_2} + \frac{d_1}{d_2} \) \( d_2 = \frac{fd_1}{d_2 - f} \)
24. \( \frac{h}{t} + 16t = v_o; h = v_o t - 16t^2 \)
25. \( m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}; x_1 = x_2 - \frac{y_2 - y_1}{m} \)
26. \( \frac{xy}{z} + 2x = \frac{z}{y}; x = \frac{-2z}{y^2 + 2yz} \)
27. \( S = \frac{2wh}{2w + h}; \) \( S = 2l + 2wh + 2lh \)
28. One delivery driver can complete a route in 6 h. Another driver can complete
the same route in 5 h.
   a. Let \( N \) be the total number of deliveries on the route. Write expressions to
      represent the number of deliveries each driver can make in 1 hour. \( \frac{N}{6}, \frac{N}{5} \)
   b. Write an expression to represent the number of hours needed to make
      \( N \) deliveries if the drivers work together.
   c. If the drivers work together, about how many hours will they take to complete
      the route? Round your answer to the nearest tenth. \( 2.7 \) h

29. A fountain has two drainage valves. With the first valve open, the fountain
    drains completely in 4 h. With only the second valve open, the fountain drains
    completely in 5.25 h. About how many hours will the fountain take to drain
    with both valves open? Round your answer to the nearest tenth. \( 2.3 \) h

30. A pen factory has two machines making pens. Together, the machines make 1500
    pens during an 8-h shift. Machine A makes pens at 2.5 times the rate of Machine B.
    About how many hours would Machine A need to make 1500 pens by itself?
    Round your answer to the nearest tenth. \( 11.2 \) h

31. Error Analysis  Describe and correct the error
    made in solving the equation.
    The student did not check the solutions in
    the original equation. The solution \( x = -3 \) is
    extraneous.

32. The formula \( V = \frac{1}{6}hH\left(b_1 + b_2\right) \) gives the
    volume of a pyramid with a trapezoidal base.
   a. Solve this equation for \( b_2 \). \( b_2 = \frac{6V}{hH} - b_1 \)
   b. Find \( b_2 \) if \( b_1 = 5 \) cm, \( h = 8 \) cm,
      \( H = 9 \) cm, and \( V = 216 \) cm\(^3\). \( 13 \) cm
Solve each equation. Check each solution.

To start, multiply each side by the LCD.

1. \( \frac{x}{4} - \frac{3}{x} = \frac{1}{4} \)
   \[ 4x\left(\frac{x}{4} - \frac{3}{x}\right) = (4x)\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) \]
   \[ x = -3 \text{ or } 4 \]

2. \( x + \frac{6}{x} = -5 \)
   \[ x = -3 \text{ or } -2 \]

3. \( \frac{5}{2x - 2} = \frac{15}{x^2 - 1} \)
   \[ x = 5 \]

4. The aerodynamic covering on a bicycle increases a cyclist’s average speed by 10 mi/h. The time for a 75-mi trip is reduced by 2 h.
   a. Using \( t \) for time, write a rational equation you can use to determine the average speed using the aerodynamic covering.
   \[ \frac{75}{t - 2} = \frac{75}{t} + 10 \]
   b. What is the average speed for the trip using the aerodynamic covering? 25 mi/h

Using a graphing calculator, solve each equation. Check each solution.

5. \( \frac{4}{2x - 3} = \frac{x}{5} \)
   \[ x = -2.5 \text{ or } 4 \]

6. \( x + 5 = \frac{6}{x} \)
   \[ x = -6, 1 \]

7. \( \frac{2}{x + 7} = \frac{x}{x^2 - 49} \)
   \[ x = 14 \]

Solve each equation for the given variable.

8. \( F = \frac{mv^2}{r} \) for \( v \)
   \[ v = \sqrt{\frac{Fr}{m}} \]

9. \( \frac{c}{dt} = Qm \) for \( d \)
   \[ d = \frac{c}{Qmt} \]

10. \( \frac{F}{Gm_1} = \frac{m_2}{r^2} \) for \( r \)
    \[ r = \sqrt{\frac{Gm_1m_2}{F}} \]
8-6 Practice (continued)  
Solving Rational Equations

11. You can travel 40 mi on your motorbike in the same time it takes your friend to travel 15 mi on his bicycle. If your friend rides his bike 20 mi/h slower than you ride your motorbike, find the speed for each bike.
   rate for motorbike: 32 mi/h; rate for bicycle: 12 mi/h

12. A passenger train travels 392 mi in the same time that it takes a freight train to travel 322 mi. If the passenger train travels 20 mi/h faster than the freight train, find the speed of each train.
   rate for freight train: 92 mi/h; rate for passenger train: 112 mi/h

13. You can paint a fence twice as fast as your sister can. Working together, the two of you can paint a fence in 6 h. How many hours would it take each of you working alone?
   you: 9 h; your sister: 18 h

14. \[
\frac{2}{x - 3} - \frac{4}{x + 3} = \frac{8}{x^2 - 9}
\]
   \[x = 5\]

15. \[
\frac{3}{x + 5} + \frac{2}{5 - x} = \frac{-4}{x^2 - 25}
\]
   \[x = 21\]

16. \[
\frac{3}{x^2 - 1} + \frac{4x}{x + 1} = \frac{1.5}{x - 1}
\]
   \[x = 0.375\]

17. You are planning a school field trip to a local theater. It costs $60 to rent the bus. Each theater ticket costs $5.50.
   a. Write a function \(c(x)\) to represent the cost per student if \(x\) students sign up for the trip. \(c(x) = 5.50 + \frac{60}{x}\)
   b. How many students must sign up if the cost is to be no more than $10 per student? 14 students
8-6 Enrichment
Solving Rational Equations

Gravitational Attraction

Many physical phenomena obey inverse-square laws. That is, the strength of the quantity is inversely proportional to the square of the distance from the source.

Isaac Newton was the first to discover that gravity obeys an inverse-square law. The gravitational force \( F \) between objects of masses \( M \) and \( m \) separated by a distance \( D \) is given by \( F = \frac{GMm}{D^2} \), where \( G \) is a constant.

Suppose that two stars, Alpha Major and Beta Minor, are separated by a distance of 6 light-years. Alpha Major has four times the mass of Beta Minor. Let \( M \) represent the mass of Beta Minor. Suppose that an object, represented by point \( P \), of mass \( m \) is placed between the two stars at a distance of \( D \) light-years from Beta Minor.

1. Write an expression for the gravitational force between this object and Beta Minor. \( \frac{GMm}{D^2} \)

2. Write an expression for the gravitational force between this object and Alpha Major. \( \frac{4GMm}{(6 - D)^2} \)

3. What is the distance of a neutral position of the object \( P \) with mass \( m \) from Beta Minor? At neutral position, both Beta Minor and Alpha Major exert equal force on point \( P \). 2 light-yr

A spaceship is stationary between a planet and its moon, experiencing an equal gravitational pull from each. When measurements are taken, it is determined that the craft is 300,000 km from the planet and 100,000 km from the moon.

4. What is the ratio of the mass of the planet to the mass of the moon? 9 : 1

5. What would be the ratio of their masses if the distance of the spaceship from the planet was \( R \) times the distance of the spaceship to the moon? \( R^2 : 1 \)

Once every 277 yr, the two moons of the planet Omega Minus line up in a straight line with the planet. The moons are equal in mass, and the inner moon is equidistant from the outer moon and from the planet. Measurements show that an object two thirds of the distance from the planet to the inner moon, and in the same line as all three, experiences an equal gravitational pull in both directions.

6. What is the ratio of the mass of the planet to the mass of one of its moons? 17 : 4
Graphing Paper