

Study Guide

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Graphing Quadratic Functions

Graphing **quadratic functions** of the form $y = ax^2 + bx + c$, where $a \neq 0$, can be simplified if you know some common characteristics.

Characteristic	Effect
sign of $a: a > 0$ a < 0	graph opens upward graph opens downward
axis of symmetry	vertical line at $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$
vertex	maximum or minimum point of the graph; x-coordinate is $-\frac{b}{2a}$

Use characteristics of quadratic functions to graph $y = x^2 - 2x - 1$. Example: **Step 1** First identify a, b, and c in $y = ax^2 + bx + c$: a = 1, b = -2, and c = -1. Since a > 0, the graph opens upwards.

Step 2 Find the axis of symmetry.

$$x = -\frac{b}{2a}$$
 Equation of the axis of symmetry

$$x = -\frac{-2}{2(1)} \text{ or } 1 \quad a = 1 \text{ and } b = -2$$

Step 3 Find the vertex. Since the equation of the axis of symmetry is x = 1, the *x*-coordinate of the vertex is 1. Substitute 1 into the equation $y = x^2 - 2x - 1$ to get $y = (1)^2 - 2(1) - 1$ or -2. The vertex is at (1, -2).

Step 4 Construct a table using values for *x* that will be on both sides of the axis of symmetry. Choose *x*-values less than 1 and *x*-values greater than 1. Graph the points.

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			N		
				_	

2 $^{-1}$ 0 3 x 1 2 -2 $\mathbf{2}$ y -1 $^{-1}$

Graph each quadratic equation. Then give the coordinates of the vertex.



Practice

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Graphing Quadratic Functions

Graph each quadratic equation by making a table of values.



Write the equation of the axis of symmetry and the coordinates of the vertex of the graph of each quadratic function. Then graph the function.

5. $y = x^2 - 1$











8. $y = -x^2 + 4x$





Enrichment

Odd Numbers and Parabolas

The solid parabola and the dashed stair-step graph are related. The parabola intersects the stair steps at their inside corners.

Use the figure for Exercises 1–3.

- 1. What is the equation of the parabola?
- 2. Describe the horizontal sections of the stair-step graph.
- 3. Describe the vertical sections of the stair-step graph.

Use the second figure for Exercises 4–6.

- 4. What is the equation of the parabola?
- 5. Describe the horizontal sections of the stair steps.
- 6. Describe the vertical sections.
- 7. How does the graph of $y = \frac{1}{2}x^2$ relate to the sequence of numbers $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{7}{2}, \cdots$?
- 8. Complete this conclusion. To graph a parabola with the equation $y = ax^2$, start at the vertex. Then go over 1 and up *a*; over 1 and up 3a;

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Families of Quadratic Functions

Families of parabolas are parabolas that share the same shape, vertex, or axis of symmetry. Graphing calculators make it easy to study families of graphs. Graph each of the following groups of equations on the same screen to compare and contrast the graphs.

$$y = x^2, y = 2x^2, y = 0.5x^2$$







same vertex as $y = x^2$; open upward; different shapes

same shape as $y = x^2$; open upward; different vertices



Describe how the graph of $y = (x + 2)^2$ changes from the parent Example: graph of $y = x^2$. Then name the vertex of each graph.

> The constant -2 will make the value of the term $(x + 2)^2$ equal to 0. Therefore this graph will shift 2 units to the left. The vertex of $y = x^2$ is at (0, 0), while the vertex of $y = (x + 2)^2$ is at (-2, 0).

Graph each group of equations on the same screen. Compare and contrast the graphs.

1. $y = -x^2$	2. $y = (x + 2)^2$	3. $y = x^2 - 1$
$y = -4x^2$	$y = (x + 4)^2$	$y = x^2 - 2$
$y = -5x^2$	$y = (x + 6)^2$	$y = x^2 - 3$

Describe how each graph changes from the parent graph of $v = x^2$. Then name the vertex of each graph.

4.
$$y = 4x^2$$
 5. $y = x^2 - 2$ **6.** $y = -x^2 - 1$

7.
$$y = (x + 1)^2$$
 8. $y = (x - 4)^2$ **9.** $y = 0.4x^2$

10.
$$y = x^2 + 3$$
 11. $y = (x + 3)^2$ **12.** $y = -x^2 - 5$

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Families of Quadratic Functions

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Graph each group of equations on the same axes. Compare and contrast the graphs.



Describe how each graph changes from the parent graph of $y = x^2$. Then name the vertex of each graph.

4. $y = 2x^2$ 5. $v = x^2 + 3$ 6. $y = -x^2 + 5$ 8. $y = (x + 1)^2$ **9.** $y = (x - 9)^2$ 7. $y = -0.2x^2$ **10.** $y = -4x^2 - 1$ **11.** $y = (x - 6)^2 + 5$ **12.** $y = -0.5x^2 + 4$ 13. $y = 5x^2 + 8$ 14. $y = (x - 2)^2 - 3$ 15. $y = -(x + 1)^2 + 8$ **16.** $y = -(x + 3)^2 - 7$ **17.** $y = -(x - 4)^2 + 5$ **18.** $y = (x + 6)^2 + 2$

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Translating Quadratic Graphs

When a figure is moved to a new position without undergoing any rotation, then the figure is said to have been **translated** to the new position.

The graph of a quadratic equation in the form $y = (x - b)^2 + c$ is a translation of the graph of $y = x^2$.

Start with $y = x^2$. Slide to the right 4 units. $y = (x - 4)^2$ Then slide up 3 units. $y = (x - 4)^2 + 3$



These equations have the form $y = x^2 + c$. Graph each equation.







These equations have the form $y = (x - b)^2$. Graph each equation.







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Solving Quadratic Equations by Graphing

A **quadratic equation** is the equation you get if you set the related quadratic function equal to 0. For example, suppose $h(t) = -16t^2 + 40t + 4$ is the quadratic function representing the height *h* of a baseball at any time *t*. A solution to the quadratic equation $0 = -16t^2 + 40t + 4$ represents the time it takes for the ball to hit the ground. The solutions of a quadratic equation are called the **roots** of the equation. They are also the *x*-intercepts of the related quadratic function.

Example:	Find the roots of $x^2 - 6x + 5 = 0$ by graphing the related
	quadratic function.

Before making a table of values, find the axis of symmetry.

$$x = -\frac{b}{2a} = -\frac{-6}{2(1)}$$
 or 3 $a = 1$ and $b = -6$

The equation of the axis of symmetry is x = 3. Now make a table using *x*-values around 3. Graph each point on the coordinate plane.

X	$x^2 - 6x + 5$	<i>f</i> (<i>x</i>)
1	$1^2 - 6(1) + 5$	0
2	$2^2 - 6(2) + 5$	-3
3	$3^2 - 6(3) + 5$	-4
4	$4^2 - 6(4) + 5$	-3
5	$5^2 - 6(5) + 5$	0



The *x*-intercepts of the function are 1 and 5. So the roots are 1 and 5.

Check: Substitute 1 and 5 for x in the equation $x^2 - 6x + 5 = 0$.

$x^2 - 6x + 5 \stackrel{?}{=} 0$	$x^2 - 6x + 5 \stackrel{?}{=} 0$
$1^2 - 6(1) + 5 \stackrel{?}{=} 0$	$5^2 - 6(5) + 5 \stackrel{?}{=} 0$
$1 - 6 + 5 \stackrel{?}{=} 0$	$25 - 30 + 5 \stackrel{?}{=} 0$
$0 = 0 \checkmark$	$0 = 0 \checkmark$

Solve each equation by graphing the related function.

```
      1. x^2 - 4x + 3 = 0
      2. x^2 - 2x + 1 = 0
      3. x^2 + 7x + 6 = 0

      4. x^2 + 5x - 14 = 0
      5. x^2 + 10x + 25 = 0
      6. x^2 - 8x - 9 = 0

      7. x^2 + 6x = 0
      8. x^2 + x + 1 = 0
      9. x^2 + 3x + 2 = 0
```





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Solving Quadratic Equations by Graphing

Solve each equation by graphing the related function. If exact roots cannot be found, state the consecutive integers between which the roots are located.











7. $2x^2 - 6x + 3 = 0$



2. $x^2 + 6x + 5 = 0$











8. $2x^2 + 8x + 2 = 0$



-2 0



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Polynomial Functions

Suppose a linear equation such as -3x + y = 4 is solved for y. Then an equivalent equation, y = 3x + 4, is found. Expressed in this way, y is a function of x, or f(x) = 3x + 4. Notice that the right side of the equation is a binomial of degree 1.

Higher-degree polynomials in *x* may also form functions. An example is $f(x) = x^3 + 1$, which is a polynomial function of degree 3. You can graph this function using a table of ordered pairs.

For each of the following polynomial functions, make a table of values for x and $y = \tilde{f}(x)$. Then draw the graph on the grid.

1.
$$f(x) = 1 - x^2$$

3.
$$f(x) = x^2 + 4x - 1$$



2.
$$f(x) = x^2 - 5$$

x

 $-1\frac{1}{2}$

-1

0

1

 $1\frac{1}{2}$

y

 $-2\frac{-2}{8}$

0

1

 $\mathbf{2}$

3 $4\frac{3}{8}$

 $\mathbf{2}$







X

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x

2

 $f(x) = x^3 + 1$

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Solving Quadratic Equations by Factoring

The roots of a quadratic equation can be found by factoring trinomial expressions. Using the Zero Product Property shown below, set each factor equal to 0, and then solve each equation.

	For all numbers a and b ,
Zero Product Property	if $ab = 0$, then $a = 0$ or $b = 0$,
	or both a and $b = 0$.

Solve $x^2 + 7x + 6 = 0$ by factoring. Example:

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$x^2 + 7x + 6 =$	= 0	
(x + 6)(x + 1) =	= 0	Factor.
$x + 6 = 0 \qquad \text{or}$	x + 1 = 0	Zero Product Property
x = -6 or	$\mathbf{r} \qquad x = -1$	Solve each equation.

The solutions are -6 and -1.

Check: Substitute -6 and -1 for x in the equation $x^2 + 7x + 6 = 0$.

$x^2 + 7x + 6 = 0$	$x^2 + 7x + 6 = 0$
$(-6)^2 + 7(-6) + 6 \stackrel{?}{=} 0$	$(-1)^2 + 7(-1) + 6 \stackrel{?}{=} 0$
$36 - 42 + 6 \stackrel{?}{=} 0$	$1 - 7 + 6 \stackrel{?}{=} 0$
$0 = 0 \checkmark$	$0 = 0 \checkmark$

Solve each equation by factoring. Check your solution.

2. $t^2 - 2t + 1 = 0$ **3.** $x^2 + 5x = 0$ 1. $x^2 + 4x + 3 = 0$

- **4.** $y^2 + 5y 6 = 0$ **5.** $p^2 + 12p + 36 = 0$ **6.** (k + 2)(k 3) = 0
- 7. 4m(m + 3) = 08. (g + 2)(g + 7) = 09. $h^2 - h - 2 = 0$
- **11.** (2g + 2)(g + 4) = 0 **12.** $x^2 12x = 0$ **10.** n(n-3) = 0

13. $s^2 - 4s - 12 = 0$ **14.** $x^2 + 7x + 10 = 0$ **15.** $y^2 + 16y + 64 = 0$ NAME _____

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Solving Quadratic Equations by Factoring

Solve each equation. Check your solution.

 1.
$$s(s + 3) = 0$$
 2. $4a(a - 6) = 0$
 3. $3m(m + 5) = 0$

 4. $6t(t - 2) = 0$
 5. $(y + 4)(y - 5) = 0$
 6. $(p - 2)(p + 3) = 0$

 7. $(x + 5)(x - 6) = 0$
 8. $(3r + 2)(r - 1) = 0$
 9. $(2n - 2)(n + 1) = 0$

 10. $(x - 3)(3x + 6) = 0$
 11. $(y + 4)(2y - 8) = 0$
 12. $(4c + 3)(c - 7) = 0$

 13. $x^2 + 3x - 10 = 0$
 14. $x^2 - 6x + 8 = 0$
 15. $x^2 + 11x + 30 = 0$

 16. $x^2 + 4x = 21$
 17. $x^2 - 5x = 36$
 18. $x^2 - 5x = 0$

 19. $2a^2 = 6a$
 20. $2x^2 - 10x + 8 = 0$
 21. $3x^2 - 7x - 6 = 0$

 22. $5x^2 - x = 4$
 23. $3x^2 + 13x = -4$
 24. $4x^2 + 7x = 2$

Enrichment

Surface Area of Solid Figures

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Many solid objects are formed by rectangles and squares. A box is an example.

The dimensions of the box shown at the right are represented by letters. The length of the base is ℓ units, its width is w units, and the height of the box is h units.

Suppose the box is cut on the seams so that it can be spread out on a flattened surface as shown at the right. The area of this figure is the surface area of the box. Find a formula for the surface area of the box.



There are 6 rectangles in the figure. The surface area is the sum of the areas of the 6 rectangles.

$$\begin{split} S &= hw + h\ell + \ell w + h\ell + hw + \ell w \\ S &= 2\ell w + 2h\ell + 2hw \end{split}$$

Find the surface area of a box with the given dimensions.

1. $\ell = 14 \text{ cm}, w = 8 \text{ cm}, h = 2 \text{ cm}$ **2.** $\ell = 40 \text{ cm}, w = 30 \text{ cm}, h = 25 \text{ cm}$

3.
$$\ell = x \text{ cm}, w = (x - 3) \text{ cm},$$

 $h = (x + 3) \text{ cm}$
4. $\ell = (s + 9) \text{ cm}, w = (s - 9) \text{ cm},$
 $h = (s + 9) \text{ cm}$

- 5. The surface area of a box is 142 cm². The length of the base is 2 cm longer than its width. The height of the box is 2 cm less than the width of the base. Find the dimensions of the box.
- **6.** Write an expression that represents the surface area of the figure shown at the right. Include the surface area of the base.





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Solving Quadratic Equations by Completing the Square

Quadratic equations can be solved by **completing the square**. You complete the square for a quadratic expression of the form $x^2 + bx$, according to the steps shown below.

Completing the Square	Step 1 Take $\frac{1}{2}$ of <i>b</i> and square it.	Example:
$x^2 + bx$	Step 2 Add the result to $x^2 + bx$.	For $x^2 + 6x$, $b = 6$. $\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$
	The perfect square is $x^2 + bx + \left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2.$	$3^2 = 9$ The perfect square
		$18 x^2 + 6x + 9.$

Once you determine $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$, you must add this number to each side of the equation. Finally, you find the square root of each side to solve the resulting equation.

Solve $x^2 + 8x - 9 = 0$ by completing the square. Example:

$$x^{2} + 8x - 9 = 0$$

$$x^{2} + 8x = 9$$
Add 9 to each side.
$$x^{2} + 8x + \left(\frac{8}{2}\right)^{2} = 9 + \left(\frac{8}{2}\right)^{2}$$
Add the square of $\frac{1}{2}b$ to each side.
$$x^{2} + 8x + 16 = 25$$

$$(x + 4)^{2} = 25$$
Factor $x^{2} + 8x + 16$.
$$x + 4 = \pm\sqrt{25}$$
Take the square root of each side.
$$x = \pm 5 - 4$$
Subtract 4 from each side.
$$x = 5 - 4 \text{ or } x = -5 - 4$$
The solutions are 1 and -9.

Solve each equation by completing the square.

1.
$$x^2 + 6x + 9 = 0$$
 2. $m^2 - 7m - 8 = 0$
 3. $y^2 + 4y = 6$

 4. $y^2 + 14y = 0$
 5. $t^2 - 12t - 7 = 0$
 6. $z^2 - 8z - 9 = 0$

 7. $n^2 + 5n = 0$
 8. $x^2 + 4x = 1$
 9. $k^2 + k - 2 = 0$

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Solving Quadratic Equations by Completing the Square

Find the value of c that makes each trinomial a perfect square.

- **1.** $x^2 + 12x + c$ **2.** $b^2 4b + c$ **3.** $g^2 16g + c$
- **4.** $n^2 + 6n + c$ **5.** $q^2 + 20q + c$ **6.** $s^2 8s + c$
- **7.** $a^2 + 10a + c$ **8.** $m^2 26m + c$ **9.** $r^2 + 5r + c$
- **10.** $y^2 + y + c$ **11.** $p^2 7p + c$ **12.** $z^2 + 11z + c$

Solve each equation by completing the square.13. $x^2 + 10x - 11 = 0$ 14. $p^2 - 8p + 12 = 0$ 15. $r^2 - 2r - 15 = 0$ 16. $c^2 - 4c - 12 = 0$ 17. $t^2 - 4t = 0$ 18. $x^2 + 6x - 7 = 0$ 19. $n^2 + 6n = 16$ 20. $w^2 - 14w + 24 = 0$ 21. $m^2 - 2m - 5 = 0$ 22. $f^2 + 10f + 15 = 0$ 23. $s^2 - 6s - 4 = 0$ 24. $h^2 - 4h = 2$ 25. $y^2 - 12y + 7 = 0$ 26. $k^2 - 8k + 13 = 0$ 27. $d^2 + 8d + 9 = 0$

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Graphing Circles by Completing Squares

Enrichment

One use for completing the square is to graph circles. The general equation for a circle with center at the origin and radius r is $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$. An equation represents a circle if it can be transformed into the sum of two squares.

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 $x^{2} - 6x + y^{2} + 4y - 3 = 0$ (x² - 6x + 9) + (y² + 4y + 4) = 0 (x² - 6x + 9) + (y² + 4y + 4) = 3 + 9 + 4 (x - 3)² + (y + 2)² = 4²

Notice that the center of the circle is at the point (3, -2).

Transform each equation into the sum of two squares. Then graph the circle represented by the equation. Use the coordinate plane provided at the bottom of the page.

$1. \ x^2 - 14x + y^2 + 6y + 49 = 0$	2. $x^2 + y^2 - 8y - 9 = 0$
3. $x^2 + 10x + y^2 + 21 = 0$	4. $x^2 + y^2 + 10y + 16 = 0$
5. $x^2 - 30x + y^2 + 209 = 0$	6. $x^2 - 18x + y^2 - 12y + 116 = 0$
7. $x^2 + 30x + y^2 - 4y + 193 = 0$	8. $x^2 + 38x + y^2 - 12y + 393 = 0$



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The Quadratic Formula

A general formula for solving *any* quadratic equation is the **Quadratic Formula**. Begin with a quadratic equation in the general form $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, where $a \neq 0$. Identify the values of *a*, *b*, and *c*. Then substitute the values into the Quadratic Formula. If the value of $b^2 - 4ac$ is negative, the equation has no real solutions.

Example: Use the Quadratic Formula to solve $2x^2 + 3x - 8 = 0$.

$$2x^{2} + 3x - 8 = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^{2} - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$x = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{3^{2} - 4(2)(-8)}}{2(2)}$$

$$x = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{73}}{4}$$

a = 2; b = 3; c = -8

Substitute the values of a, b, and c into the Quadratic Formula.

The solutions are $\frac{-3 + \sqrt{73}}{4}$ and $\frac{-3 - \sqrt{73}}{4}$.

Use the Quadratic Formula to solve each equation.

1. $x^2 + 4x + 4 = 0$ **2.** $n^2 - 8n - 9 = 0$ **3.** $x^2 + 5x = 8$

4. $m^2 + 18m = 0$ **5.** $t^2 - 8t + 7 = 0$ **6.** $k^2 - 10k + 25 = 0$

7.
$$n^2 - 9n = 0$$
 8. $2a^2 + a = -6$ **9.** $m^2 + m - 6 = 0$

10. $n^2 - 6n + 9 = 0$ **11.** $2y^2 + y = 5$ **12.** $-x^2 + 9x - 7 = 0$

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The Quadratic Formula

Use the Quadratic Formula to solve each equation. 1. $y^2 - 49 = 0$ **2.** $x^2 + 7x + 6 = 0$ **3.** $k^2 - 7k + 12 = 0$ **4.** $n^2 + 5n - 14 = 0$ **5.** $b^2 - 5b - 6 = 0$ **6.** $z^2 + 8z + 12 = 0$ **7.** $-q^2 + 5q - 4 = 0$ **8.** $a^2 - 9a + 22 = 0$ **9.** $c^2 - 4c = -3$ **10.** $x^2 + 9x = -14$ **11.** $h^2 - 2h = 8$ 12. $m^2 + m = -4$ **13.** $-z^2 - 8z - 15 = 0$ **14.** $r^2 + 6r = -5$ **15.** $-h^2 + 6h = -7$ **16.** $g^2 + 12x + 20 = 0$ **17.** $w^2 + 10w = -9$ **18.** $2y^2 + 6y + 4 = 0$ **19.** $-2m^2 + 4m + 6 = 0$ **20.** $2x^2 + 8x = 10$ **21.** $2b^2 - 3b = -1$ **22.** $2p^2 + 6p + 8 = 0$ **23.** $3k^2 + 6k = 9$ **24.** $-3x^2 - 4x + 4 = 0$

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10 inches.

Another property of golden rectangles is that a square drawn inside a golden rectangle creates another, smaller golden rectangle. In the design at the right, opposite vertices of each square have been connected with quarters of circles.

6. On a separate sheet of paper, draw a larger version of the design. Start with a golden rectangle with a long side of

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For example, the arc from point B to point C is created by putting the point of a compass at point A. The radius of the arc is the length BA.

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- 4. Solve the equation in problem 3 for a. 5. Explain why $\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{5} + 1)$ and $\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{5} - 1)$ are called golden ratios.
- **3.** In the proportion, let b = 1. Write a quadratic equation in a.
- **1.** In the proportion, let a = 1. Use **2.** Solve the equation in problem 1 cross-multiplication to write a for *b*.
- A golden rectangle has the property that its sides satisfy the following proportion.

Golden Rectangles

quadratic equation.

 $\frac{a+b}{a} = \frac{a}{b}$

Two quadratic equations can be written from the proportion. These are sometimes called **golden quadratic** equations.

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Exponential Functions

An **exponential function** is a function of the form $y = a^x$, where a > 0 and $a \neq 1$. If a is a value greater than one, then the function represents *exponential growth*. This can be very rapid growth, as in the case of $y = 2^x$, or less rapid growth as in the case of $y = 1.05^x$. To graph exponential functions, first make a table of ordered pairs.

x	2 ^x	у
-1	2^{-1}	0.5
0	2^{0}	1
1	2^{1}	2
2	2^{2}	4
3	2^{3}	8

X	1.05 ^x	У
-1	1.05^{-1}	0.95
0	1.05^{0}	1
1	1.05^{1}	1.05
2	1.05^{2}	1.1
3	1.05^{3}	1.16

X	2 ² <i>x</i>	У
-1	2^{-2}	0.25
0	2^{0}	1
1	2^{2}	4
2	2^{4}	16
3	2^{6}	64

y-intercept = 1

y-intercept = 1

Graph each exponential function.

1. $y = 3^x - 1$

2. $\gamma = 4^x + 2$ 0

5. $y = 4^{2x}$

6. $y = 1.08^{x}$

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Exponential Functions

Graph each exponential function. Then state the y-intercept.

4. $y = 2^x + 4$

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8. $y = 2^x - 1$

Enrichment

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Applications of Geometric Sequence

Populations often grow according to a geometric sequence. If the population of a country grows at the rate of 2% per year, then the common ratio, r, is 1.02. To find the population of a city of 100,000 after 5 years of 2% growth, use the formula ar^{n-1} , where *r* is the common ratio and *n* is the number of years.

$$ar^{n-1} = 100,000 \times 1.02^{5-1}$$
 $a = 100,000; r = 1.02; n = 5$
= 100,000 × 1.02⁴
 $\approx 108,243$

After a few years, a small change in the annual growth rate can cause enormous differences in the population.

Assume that the nation of Grogro had a population of one million in 1990. Using a calculator, find the population of the country in the years 2000, 2050, and 2100 at growth rates of 1%, 3%, and 5% per year. Record your results in the table below.

	Population of Grogro						
	Growth		Year				
	Rate	2000	2050	2100			
1.	1%						
2.	3%						
3.	5%						

Suppose we want to find the *total* distance a bouncing ball has moved. We need a formula for the *sum* of the terms of a geometric sequence. This is called a **geometric series**.

$$S_n = rac{a - ar^n}{1 - r}$$
 $a = first term$
 $r = common ratio (r \neq 1)$
 $n = number of terms$

Use the formula above to find each sum. Then check your answer by adding.

4. 5 + 10 + 20 + 40 + 80**5.** 80 + 240 + 720 + 2160 + 6480

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School-to-Workplace

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Horsepower (Automotive Technician)

Before the automobile was invented, horses were used to deliver goods from a manufacturer to market, to carry passengers from one place to another, and to raise heavy objects in building projects.

In the late eighteenth century, James Watt estimated that one horse could pull 330 pounds of coal a distance of 100 feet in one minute. So, he defined one horsepower to be 33,000 foot-pounds per minute.

Today's automobiles are high-powered and highly-technical machines that are capable of performing the work of perhaps 165 horses working together.

An automotive technician is trained to understand the relationship between an automobile's horsepower and engine speed measured in crank revolutions per minute.

The equation below relates the horsepower H of an engine to engine rpm r.

$$H = \frac{1}{150,000} r^2 + \frac{2}{75} r - \frac{35}{3}$$

At what rpm will the engine generate 75 horsepower?

Graph the equation.

Locate 75 on the vertical axis. From the graph, the desired rpm is between 2000 and 2250. A reasonable estimate for the desired horsepower is $\frac{2000 + 2250}{2} = 2125$.

An engine with an rpm of 2125 will generate about 75 horsepower.

Solve. Give reasonable estimates.

1. At what rpm will the engine generate 60 horsepower?

- 2. At what rpm will the engine generate 100 horsepower?
- **3.** Part of the graph is below the rpm-axis. What does this tell you about the usefulness of the equation above?