Quiz on 1.2: Lines



Does (2,7) satisfy the equation y - 5 = 2(x - 1)?

Does (3,3) satisfy the equation y - 5 = 2(x - 1)?

What is another point that satisfies that equation?

Draw both points and the line between them.

What is the slope of the line with equation y - 5 = 2(x - 1)?

What is the slope of a line perpendicular to that line?

What is the equation of the line perpendicular to the first and passing through the point (1,5)?



Draw both lines.



A triangle has corners (1,5), (2,7) and (5,y), with a right angle at (1,5). What is y? Draw the points and the triangle.

Examples for 1.2: Slope

A line is determined by two points on the line. Make sure that you can graph a line through two points. Given any two points on a line, you can make a right triangle with sides parallel to the axes. The ratio of the side lengths only depends on the line, not on the points chosen. The **slope** is a number that represents this ratio:

slope =
$$m = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{y_1 - y_2}{x_1 - x_2}$$

where (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) are two points on the line.

For example, the slope between (-2, 1) and (2, 3) is $(3-1)/(2-(-2)) = \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$. The slope between (-2, 1) and (6, 5) is $(5-1)/(6-(-2)) = \frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$ has not changed. The slope of the line does not depend on which two points on the line you choose.



Examples for 1.2: Equations of lines



The slope of a line does not change, so if we have one point (x_1, y_1) on the line and we have the slope m of the line, then for every other point (x, y) on the line we have the equation:

$$m = \frac{y - y_1}{x - x_1}$$

Some people prefer to solve for y to get the **point-slope form**

 $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$ or $y = m(x - x_1) + y_1$

Things are easier if we have $x_1 = 0$. The point (0, b) on the line is called the *y*-intercept and gives the **slope-intercept form** of the line:

$$y = mx + b$$

For instance on the left we have the points (0,3) and (1,5), so the slope is $m = \frac{5-3}{1-0} = 2$. The equation then is y - 5 = 2(x - 1) or y = 2x + 3.

Parallel and perpendicular:

Parallel lines have the same slope. The line **perpendicular** to the line with slope m has slope:

$$m_{\rm perp} = \frac{-1}{m}$$

