

Find Values Using Function Notation

What does a function do?

Takes an input(x), performs operations on it and then gives an output (y)

What does function notation look like?

$f(x) = \dots$ something to do with x
read as f at x or f of x
replaces y

Example 1

For each of the following functions, determine $f(2)$, $f(-5)$, and $f(1/2)$

a) $f(x) = 2x - 4$

$$\begin{array}{lll} f(2) = 2(2) - 4 & f(5) = 2(5) - 4 & f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 2\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) - 4 \\ = 4 - 4 & = 10 - 4 & = 1 - 4 \\ = 0 & = 6 & = -3 \end{array}$$

b) $f(x) = 3x^2 - x + 7$

$$\begin{array}{ll} f(2) = 3(2)^2 - 2 + 7 & f(5) = 3(-5)^2 - (-5) + 7 \\ = 12 - 2 + 7 & = 75 - (-5) + 7 \\ = 10 + 7 & = 80 + 7 \\ = 17 & = 87 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) &= 3\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + 7 \\ &= \frac{3}{4} - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + 7 \\ &= \frac{1}{4} + 7 \\ &= 7\frac{1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Applications of Function Notation

For the function $h(t) = -3(t + 1)^2 + 5$

a) Graph it and find the domain and range

skipping because graphing is beign annoying b) Find $h(-7)$

$$\begin{aligned}h(-7) &= -3(-7 + 1)^2 + 5 \\&= -3(36) + 5 \\&= -108 + 5 \\&= -103\end{aligned}$$