

Example

Solve the system if possible.

$$-3x + 2y = -2$$

$$6x - 4y = 1$$

Let's do it by comparison. We're going to solve for y in both equations.

Equation① $2y = -2 + 3x \Rightarrow y = \frac{1}{2}(-2 + 3x)$

$$y = -1 + \frac{3}{2}x$$

$$y = \frac{3}{2}x - 1$$

Equation② $-4y = 1 - 6x \Rightarrow y = -\frac{1}{4}(1 - 6x)$

$$y = -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{6}{4}x$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{2}x$$

Now, we make the 2 y 's equal to each other.

$$\frac{3}{2}x - 1 = -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{2}x$$

$$0x = -\frac{1}{4} + 1$$

$$0 \neq -\frac{1}{4} + 1 \quad \text{Contradiction}$$

Therefore, the 2 lines are parallel. (No intersection point.)

In this case, the system is called INCONSISTENT.

Sometimes you could have 3 equations in 2 unknowns.

Let's see how we can solve them.