

Example

A line is perpendicular to the line $x = -3$ and passes through the point $(2, -5)$. Find the equation of this line.

Since $x = -3$ is an equation of a vertical line. Then our line must be horizontal and its equation must pass through the point $(2, -5)$.

$$\Rightarrow y = -5 \text{ is our equation}$$

HP

The slope-intercept form of a line is $y = mx + b$.

We have another form to express the equation of a line with slope m and passing through the point $P(x_1, y_1)$.

The equation would be:

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

Example

Let L_1 be the line with equation $2x - y = 5$.

Let L_2 " " " passing through $(1, 1)$

L_1 and L_2 are perpendicular. Write an equation of line L_2 .

$$2x - y = 5 \Rightarrow -y = -2x + 5$$

$$L_1: y = 2x - 5$$

A perpendicular line to L_1 would have slope $m = -\frac{1}{2}$.

The point-slope form of the line is: $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$.

$$\text{The point is } (1, 1) \Rightarrow y - 1 = -\frac{1}{2}(x - 1)$$

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

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