

Direct Variation (proportional relationships)

The number of gallons of water used depends directly on the amount of time spent in the shower.

The equation that relates the number of gallons of water used to the amount of time, x is given by the equation $y = 6x$. We say, "y varies directly as x".

← minutes

1. Complete the table that shows the relationship between the time spent showering and the amount of water used.

x (minutes)	3	6	7.5	12	20.5
y (gallons)	18	36	45	72	123

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \overline{) 45} \\ \underline{42} \\ 3 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \overline{) 123.0} \\ \underline{12} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

This type of relationship is called a direct variation.

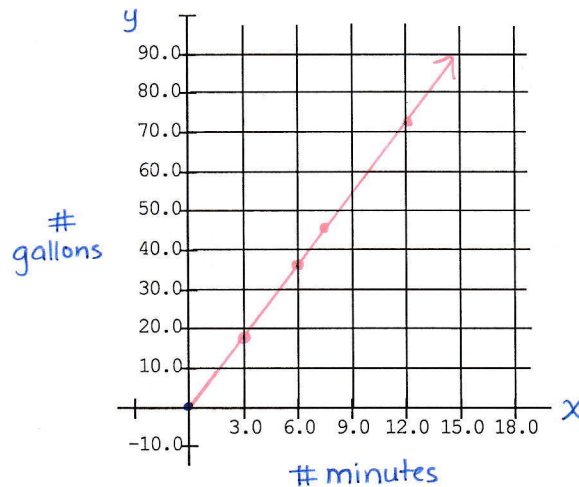
2. Graph the line $y = 6x$ on the axes provided.

3. What does the 6 represent?

6 gallons per minute

4. What is the y-intercept?

0 min = 0 gallons



Definition: A direct variation is a relationship that can be described by an equation of the form

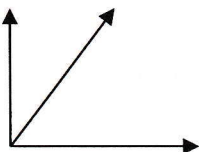
$y = kx$ where $k \neq 0$ and k is called the constant of variation.

Note: the graphs of direct variation equations always pass through origin.

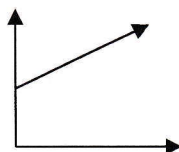
If the ratio of two variables is a constant, then direct variation is the way of expressing the relationship between the two variables. That is $k = \frac{y}{x}$ or $y = kx$. The constant k has the same value as the slope of the line. So when you graph a direct variation, you are graphing lines with slope k .

5. Which of these graphs show direct variation?

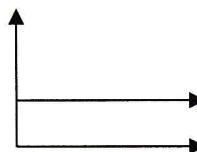
a.



b.



c.



Solve for k , and then solve for the missing variable.

6. If $y = 16$ when $x = 4$, find y when $x = 8$.

① Find k .

$$k = \frac{y}{x}$$

$$k = \frac{16}{4}$$

$$\boxed{k = 4}$$

$$y = 4x$$

② Find y .

$$y = 4x$$

$$y = 4(8)$$

$$\boxed{y = 32}$$

7. If $y = -4$ when $x = 2$, find y when $x = -10$.

① Find k .

$$k = \frac{y}{x}$$

$$k = \frac{-4}{2}$$

$$\boxed{k = -2}$$

$$y = -2x$$

② Find y .

$$y = -2x$$

$$y = -2(-10)$$

$$\boxed{y = 20}$$

8. Which of the following tables show direct variation? If possible, find k for each table.

a.

x	y
2	22
3	33
5	55

$$k = \frac{y}{x}$$

$$22/2 = 11$$

$$33/3 = 11$$

$$55/5 = 11$$

D.V. $k = \underline{11}$

b.

x	y
2	14
3	19
5	29

$$y/x$$

$$14/2 = 7$$

$$19/3 = \text{Not } 7$$

$k = \underline{\text{Not D.V.}}$

c.

x	y
2	7.4
3	11.1
5	18.5

$$y/x$$

$$7.4/2 = 3.7$$

$$11.1/3 = 3.7$$

$$18.5/5 = 3.7$$

D.V. $k = \underline{3.7}$

$k = \frac{y}{x}$ must be constant.

$$2 \overline{) 7.4}$$

$$3 \overline{) 11.1}$$

$$5 \overline{) 18.5}$$



One of these scenarios represents a direct variation and one does not. How can you tell the difference?

$$y = \frac{k}{x}$$

(a) A large pizza with one topping costs \$15.50. A large pizza with four toppings costs \$20. Does the price vary directly with the number of toppings?

(b) A marathoner ran 5 miles in 40 minutes and 15 miles in 120 minutes. Does the time vary directly with the number of miles? $k = 8$

$$\frac{40}{5} = 8$$

$$\frac{120}{15} = 8$$

Practice STAAR Question

The value of y is directly proportional to the value of x . When $x = 3.5$, the value of y is 14.

What is the value of y when $x = 28$?

Record your answer and fill in the bubbles on your answer document.

① Find k .

$$k = \frac{y}{x}$$

$$k = \frac{14}{3.5}$$

$$k = 4$$

② Find y .

$$y = 4x$$

$$y = 4(28)$$

$$\boxed{y = 112}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \overline{) 28} \\ \times 4 \\ \hline 112 \end{array}$$