

**Lesson 6.3: Slope of a Line****Learning Goal:** We are learning how slope impacts a linear equation. It's all downhill from here!

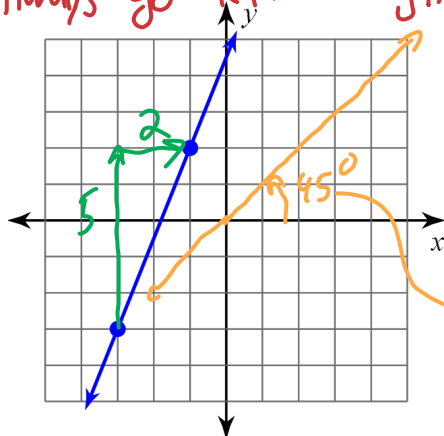
In this lesson, we will explore the most significant property of a linear relationship: the slope! The slope of a line tells us how the relationship is changing and can be thought of as how slanted/steep the line is. It has many important applications such as engineering the initial climb of a roller coaster to making safe ramps, but today we will focus on the algebra and understanding how to calculate the slope of a line.



First, let's look at the slope from a geometric perspective. The slope, defined by the letter  $m$  for no apparent reason, is:  $m = \frac{\text{Rise}}{\text{Run}}$  — how does the line increase or decrease vertically.  
 → how does the line increase horizontally

**Example 1:** Given the line with two points, calculate the slope.

Always go left to right →

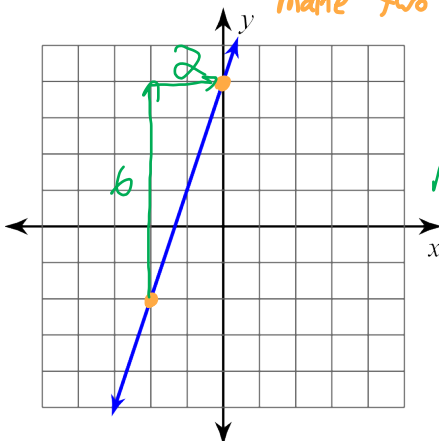


$$m = \frac{\text{Rise}}{\text{Run}} = \frac{5}{2}$$

$$\rightarrow 45^\circ \Rightarrow m = 1$$

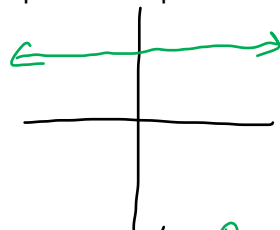
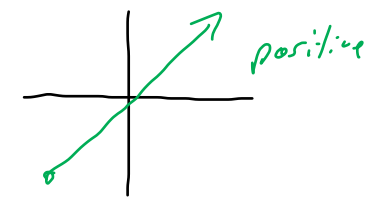
**Example 2:** Given the line, locate two points, then calculate the slope.

make two points a the corner of a box

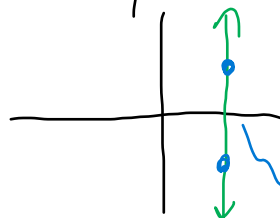
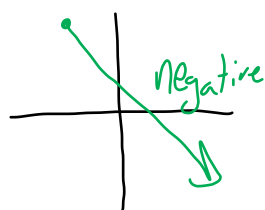


$$m = \frac{6}{2} = \frac{3}{1} = 3$$

Are slopes always positive? There are 4 possible slopes:

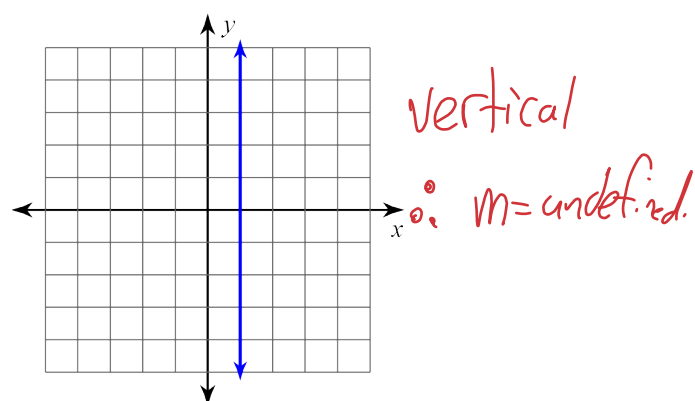
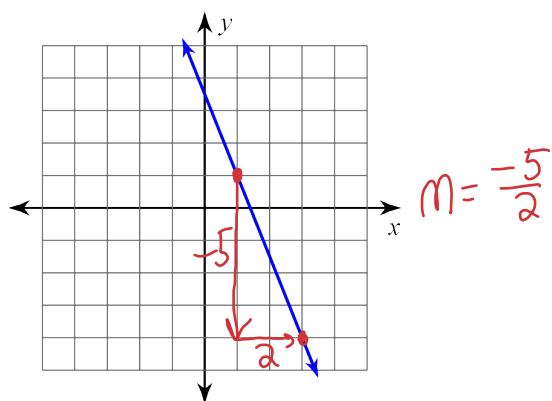


horizontal.  
 $m = 0$



vertical  
 $m = \text{undefined}$   
 $m = \frac{5}{0}$

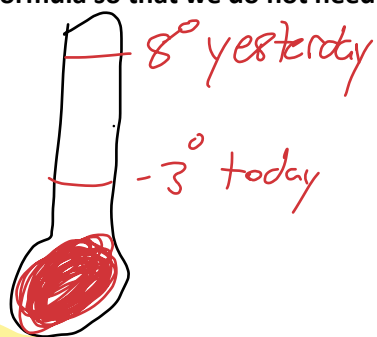
Example 3 and 4: Calculate the slopes of each line.



Now that we know about slope, we can derive a formula so that we do not need a graph.



The change in temp is  
 $9^\circ - 2^\circ = 7^\circ\text{C}$



The change in temp is  
 $-3 - (8) = -11^\circ\text{C}$

Note: Change = today - yesterday  
 $= 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ temp} - 1^{\text{st}} \text{ temp}$   
 $= \text{temp}_2 - \text{temp}_1$

Rise = the change in y's  
 Run = the change in x's  
 $m = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$  *delta*  
 memorize

Examples 5-8: Given the points, calculate the slope.

5.  $(7, -10), (9, -7)$   $(x_1, y_1)$   $(x_2, y_2)$

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

$$m = \frac{-7 - (-10)}{9 - 7}$$

$$m = \frac{3}{2}$$

6.  $(-6, -17), (-20, 11)$

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

$$m = \frac{11 - (-17)}{-20 - (-6)}$$

$$m = \frac{28}{-14} = \frac{2}{-1} = -2$$

7.  $(6, -12), (6, 1)$

$$\text{Run} = 0$$

$$= \frac{\#}{0} = \text{undefined}$$

vertical

8.  $(-3, 9), (3, 9)$

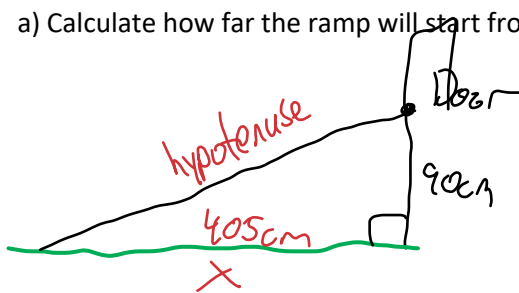
$$\text{Rise} = 0$$

$$= \frac{0}{\#} = 0$$

horizontal

**Example 9:** A ramp needs to be constructed to go from the ground to a doorway. The doorway is 90 cm from the ground and the ramp needs a slope of  $\frac{2}{9}$ .

a) Calculate how far the ramp will start from the edge of the house.



$$m = \frac{\text{Rise}}{\text{Run}}$$

$$\frac{2}{9} = \frac{90}{x}$$

cross multiply

b) Calculate the length of the ramp.

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

$$90^2 + 405^2 = c^2$$

$$8100 + 164025 = c^2$$

$$\sqrt{172125} = \sqrt{c^2}$$

$$414.9 = c$$

$$2x = 90(9)$$

$$2x = \frac{810}{2}$$

$$x = 405 \text{ cm.}$$

Example 10 and 11: Calculate the missing coordinate.

10. (2, <sup>①</sup>y) and (<sup>②</sup>-3, -2); slope:  $\frac{3}{5}$

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

$$\frac{3}{5} = \frac{-2 - y}{-3 - 2}$$

$$\frac{3}{5} = \frac{-2 - y}{-5}$$

$$-15 = 5(-2 - y)$$

$$-15 = -10 - 5y$$

$$-5 = -5y$$

$$1 = y$$

11. (<sup>①</sup>x, 4) and (<sup>②</sup>-5, 10); slope:  $\frac{3}{2}$

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

$$\frac{3}{2} = \frac{10 - 4}{-5 - x}$$

$$\frac{3}{2} = \frac{6}{-5 - x}$$

$$3(-5 - x) = 12$$

$$-15 - 3x = 12$$

$$-3x = 27$$

$$x = -9$$

### Success Criteria

- I can identify the four types of slope: positive, negative, zero, undefined
- I can find the slope of a line graphically by studying its  $\frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}}$
- I can calculate the slope of a line algebraically by using the formula  $m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$
- I can find a missing coordinate, if given the slope