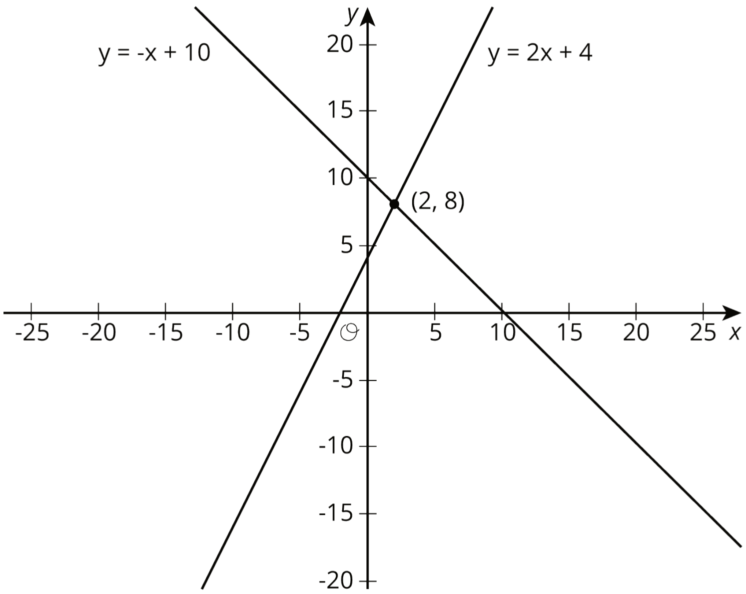
Lesson 14: Solving Systems of Equations

Let's solve systems of equations.

14.1: True or False: Two Lines



Use the lines to decide whether each statement is true or false. Be prepared to explain your reasoning using the lines.

1. A solution to $8 = -x + 10$ is 2.

2. A solution to $2 = 2x + 4$ is 8.

3. A solution to $-x + 10 = 2x + 4$ is 8.

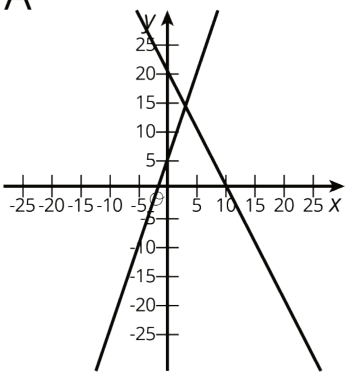
4. A solution to $-x + 10 = 2x + 4$ is 2.

5. There are no values of x and y that make $y = -x + 10$ and $y = 2x + 4$ true at the same time.

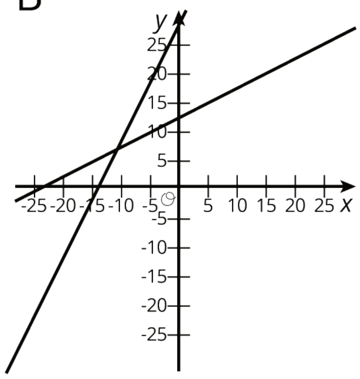
14.2: Matching Graphs to Systems

Here are three **systems of equations** graphed on a coordinate plane:

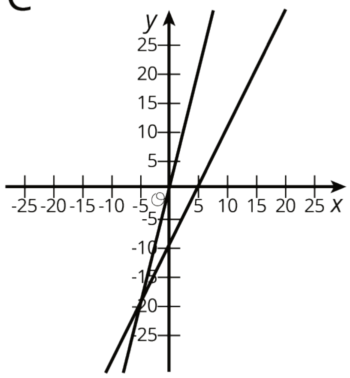
A



B



C



1. Match each figure to one of the systems of equations shown here.
    a. $\begin{cases} y = 3x + 5 \\ y = \text{-}2x + 20 \end{cases}$

    b. $\begin{cases} y = 2x - 10 \\ y = 4x - 1 \end{cases}$

    c. $\begin{cases} y = 0.5x + 12 \\ y = 2x + 27 \end{cases}$

2. Find the solution to each system and check that your solution is reasonable based on the graph.

14.3: Different Types of Systems

Your teacher will give you a page with some systems of equations.

1. Graph each system of equations carefully on the provided coordinate plane.
2. Describe what the graph of a system of equations looks like when it has . . .
    a. 1 solution

    b. 0 solutions

    c. infinitely many solutions

Are you ready for more?

The graphs of the equations $Ax + By = 15$ and $Ax - By = 9$ intersect at $(2, 1)$. Find A and B. Show or explain your reasoning.

Lesson 14 Summary

Sometimes it is easier to solve a system of equations without having to graph the equations and look for an intersection point. In general, whenever we are solving a system of equations written as

$$\begin{cases} y = \text{[some stuff]} \\ y = \text{[some other stuff]} \end{cases}$$

we know that we are looking for a pair of values (x, y) that makes both equations true. In particular, we know that the value for y will be the same in both equations. That means that

$$\text{[some stuff]} = \text{[some other stuff]}$$

For example, look at this system of equations:

$$\begin{cases} y = 2x + 6 \\ y = \text{-}3x - 4 \end{cases}$$

Since the y value of the solution is the same in both equations, then we know

$$2x + 6 = -3x - 4$$

We can solve this equation for x:

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + 6 &= -3x - 4 & \\ 5x + 6 &= -4 & \text{add } 3x \text{ to each side} \\ 5x &= -10 & \text{subtract 6 from each side} \\ x &= -2 & \text{divide each side by 5} \end{aligned}$$

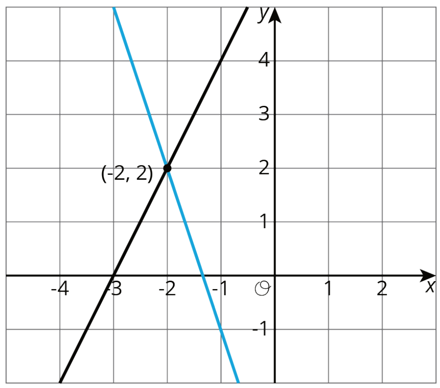
But this is only half of what we are looking for: we know the value for x, but we need the corresponding value for y. Since both equations have the same y value, we can use either equation to find the y-value:

$$y = 2(-2) + 6$$

Or

$$y = -3(-2) - 4$$

In both cases, we find that $y = 2$. So the solution to the system is $(-2, 2)$. We can verify this by graphing both equations in the coordinate plane.



In general, a system of linear equations can have:

- No solutions. In this case, the lines that correspond to each equation never intersect.
- Exactly one solution. The lines that correspond to each equation intersect in exactly one point.
- An infinite number of solutions. The graphs of the two equations are the same line!