

Solving Equations for y in terms of x

Examples

Solve the following equations for y in terms of x.

$$1.) \frac{2y}{2} = \frac{4x - 6}{2} \quad \text{isolate } y$$

$$y = 2x - 3$$

\uparrow \uparrow
 m $b = -3$

$$y = mx + b$$

slope-intercept form
(m) (b)

$$2.) 2x + y = 5 \quad -2x$$

$$y = -2x + 5$$

\uparrow \uparrow
 m $b = 5$

$$3.) x - y = 8 \quad -x$$

$$\frac{-y}{-1} = \frac{-x + 8}{-1}$$

$$y = x - 8$$

$m = 1$ $b = -8$

or multiply by (-1)

$$4.) -3x - 2y = -1 \quad +3x$$

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

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

\uparrow \uparrow
 m b

$$5.) x - 4y = 3$$

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

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