

Lesson Summary

Systems of linear equations can be solved by eliminating one of the variables from the system. One way to eliminate a variable is by setting both equations equal to the same variable and then writing the expressions equal to one another.

Example: Solve the system $\begin{cases} y = 3x - 4 \\ y = 2x + 1 \end{cases}$.

Since the expressions $3x - 4$ and $2x + 1$ are both equal to y , they can be set equal to each other and the new equation can be solved for x :

$$3x - 4 = 2x + 1$$

Another way to eliminate a variable is by multiplying each term of an equation by the same constant to make an equivalent equation. Then, use the equivalent equation to eliminate one of the variables and solve the system.

Example: Solve the system $\begin{cases} 2x + y = 8 \\ x + y = 10 \end{cases}$.

Multiply the second equation by -2 to eliminate the x .

$$\begin{aligned} -2(x + y) &= -2(10) \\ -2x - 2y &= -20 \end{aligned}$$

Now we have the system $\begin{cases} 2x + y = 8 \\ -2x - 2y = -20 \end{cases}$.

When the equations are added together, the x is eliminated.

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + y - 2x - 2y &= 8 + (-20) \\ y - 2y &= 8 + (-20) \end{aligned}$$

Once a solution has been found, verify the solution graphically or by substitution.

Problem Set

Determine the solution, if it exists, for each system of linear equations. Verify your solution on the coordinate plane.

1. $\begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}x + 5 = y \\ 2x + y = 1 \end{cases}$

2. $\begin{cases} 9x + 2y = 9 \\ -3x + y = 2 \end{cases}$

3. $\begin{cases} y = 2x - 2 \\ 2y = 4x - 4 \end{cases}$

$$4. \begin{cases} 8x + 5y = 19 \\ -8x + y = -1 \end{cases}$$

$$5. \begin{cases} x + 3 = y \\ 3x + 4y = 7 \end{cases}$$

$$6. \begin{cases} y = 3x + 2 \\ 4y = 12 + 12x \end{cases}$$

$$7. \begin{cases} 4x - 3y = 16 \\ -2x + 4y = -2 \end{cases}$$

$$8. \begin{cases} 2x + 2y = 4 \\ 12 - 3x = 3y \end{cases}$$

$$9. \begin{cases} y = -2x + 6 \\ 3y = x - 3 \end{cases}$$

$$10. \begin{cases} y = 5x - 1 \\ 10x = 2y + 2 \end{cases}$$

$$11. \begin{cases} 3x - 5y = 17 \\ 6x + 5y = 10 \end{cases}$$

$$12. \begin{cases} y = \frac{4}{3}x - 9 \\ y = x + 3 \end{cases}$$

$$13. \begin{cases} 4x - 7y = 11 \\ x + 2y = 10 \end{cases}$$

$$14. \begin{cases} 21x + 14y = 7 \\ 12x + 8y = 16 \end{cases}$$