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## GOAL Write an equation of a line using points on the line.

## EXAMPLE 1 Write an equation given the slope and a point

Write an equation of the line that passes through the point $(2,5)$ and has a slope of 3 .

## Solution

STEP 1 Identify the slope. The slope is 3 .
STEP 2 Find the $y$-intercept. Substitute the slope and the coordinates of the given point into $y=m x+b$. Solve for $b$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
y & =m x+b & & \text { Write slope-intercept form. } \\
5 & =3(2)+b & & \text { Substitute } 3 \text { for } m, 2 \text { for } x, \text { and } 5 \text { for } y . \\
-1 & =b & & \text { Solve for } b .
\end{aligned}
$$

STEP 3 Write an equation of the line.
$y=m x+b \quad$ Write slope-intercept form.
$y=3 x-1 \quad$ Substitute 3 for $m$, and -1 for $b$.

## EXAMPLE 2 Write an equation given two points

Write an equation of the line that passes through $(3,9)$ and $(-2,-1)$.
Solution
STEP 1 Calculate the slope.
$m=\frac{y_{2}-y_{1}}{x_{2}-x_{1}}=\frac{-1-9}{-2-3}=\frac{-10}{-5}=2$
STEP 2 Find the $y$-intercept. Use the slope and the point (3, 9).
$y=m x+b \quad$ Write slope-intercept form.
$9=2(3)+b \quad$ Substitute 2 for $m, 3$ for $x$, and 9 for $y$.
$3=b \quad$ Solve for $b$.

STEP 3 Write an equation of the line.
$y=m x+b \quad$ Write slope-intercept form.
$y=2 x+3 \quad$ Substitute 2 for $m$ and 3 for $b$.
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## Exercises for Examples 1 and 2

Write an equation of the line that passes through the given point and has the given slope.

1. $(7,2) ; m=4$
2. $(9,15) ; m=-\frac{1}{3}$

Write an equation of the line that passes through the two given points.
3. $(5,8),(13,12)$
4. $(-6,-7),(-3,5)$

## EXAMPLE 3 Write a linear function

Write an equation of the linear function with the values $f(2)=3$ and $f(-3)=8$.

## Solution

STEP 1 Calculate the slope. Write $f(2)=3$ as $(2,3)$ and $f(-3)=8$ as $(-3,8)$.

$$
m=\frac{y_{2}-y_{1}}{x_{2}-x_{1}}=\frac{8-3}{-3-2}=\frac{5}{-5}=-1
$$

STEP 2 Find the $y$-intercept. Use the slope and the point (2, 3).
$y=m x+b \quad$ Write slope-intercept form.
$3=-1(2)+b \quad$ Substitute -1 for $m, 2$ for $x$, and 3 for $y$.
$5=b \quad$ Solve for $b$.
STEP 3 Write an equation for the function. Use $f(x)=m x+b$.
$f^{\prime}(x)=-x+5 \quad$ Substitute -1 for $m$ and 5 for $b$.

## Exercises for Example 3

Write an equation for a linear function $\boldsymbol{f}$ that has the given values.
5. $f(2)=-4$ and $f(-4)=-7$
6. $f(-5)=17$ and $f(3)=9$

