Functions

(covers parts of Sullivan 2.1 and 2.4)



Ex 1.



Ex 2.

Suppose $f(x) = x^2 + 3$. Find f(2).

Ex 3.

Suppose $f(x) = \frac{x+12}{9-x}$. Find f(10).

Ex 4.

Suppose $f(x) = \frac{x^3 + \sqrt{x}}{2x - 1}$. Find $f(\frac{\textcircled{3}}{x})$.

Ex 5.

Suppose $f(x) = 2x^2 - 3x$. Find $\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}$ (called the **difference quotient**) and simplify by canceling the factor of h.

Ex 6.

Suppose $f(x) = \frac{3}{x}$. Find $\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}$ and simplify by canceling the factor of h.

Ex 7.

Suppose $f(x) = \sqrt{x-5}$. Find $\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}$ and simplify by canceling the factor of h.

Sometimes functions have different formulas depending on your input. These are called **piecewise-defined functions**.

Ex 8.

Evaluate the piecewise-defined function at the indicated values.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2 - x^2 & \text{if } x < -1\\ 3x - 3 & \text{if } -1 < x \le 4\\ -2 & \text{if } x > 4 \end{cases}$$

$$f(-2) =$$

$$f(-1)$$

$$f(0) =$$

$$f(4) =$$

$$f(5) =$$

The ______ of a function is the set of all possible _____.

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$$\frac{1}{\Box} \rightarrow \Box \neq 0 \qquad \qquad \sqrt{\Box} \rightarrow \Box \geq 0 \qquad \qquad \log \Box \rightarrow \Box > 0$$

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Find the domain of each of the following functions.

$$f(x) = \frac{x+2}{x^2-9}$$

$$g(x) = \sqrt{2x - 8}$$

$$h(x) = \frac{x-2}{\sqrt{5-3x}}$$

$$p(x) = -3x^2 + 5x - 6$$

Suppose you have two functions, f(x) and g(x).

You can add, subtract, multiply, and divide f and g to get new functions:

$$(f+g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$$

$$(f-g)(x) = f(x) - g(x)$$

$$(fg)(x) = f(x)g(x)$$

$$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$$

ex: Suppose $f(x) = \frac{1}{x-2}$ and $g(x) = \sqrt{x}$. Then...

$$(f+g)(x) = \frac{1}{x-2} + \sqrt{x} \qquad \text{and} \qquad \left(\frac{f}{g}\right)(x) = \frac{\left(\frac{1}{x-2}\right)}{\sqrt{x}} = \frac{1}{(x-2)\sqrt{x}}$$

The domains of f+g, f-g, and fg are all the numbers that can be plugged into **both** f(x) and g(x) (that is, it's the intersection of the domains of f and g). For f/g it's the same, though you also have to take out any numbers that make g(x)=0.