

SLOPE NOTES

"EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW!"



HOW CAN I FIND THE SLOPE OF A LINE?

IT DEPENDS ON THE INFORMATION YOU ARE GIVEN! THERE ARE MANY WAYS!



OPTION 1 - You are given 2 coordinates

‡ IF YOU ARE GIVEN 2 pts you must use the slope formula

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

Ex 1: $(2, 1), (3, 5)$

$$\frac{5-1}{3-2} = \frac{4}{1} = 4$$

Ex 2: $(2, -8), (-3, -5)$

$$\frac{-5 - (-8)}{-3 - 2} = \frac{-5 + 8}{-5} = \frac{3}{-5}$$

OPTION 2 - Count on your little fingers!

‡ IF YOU EVER FORGET THE FORMULA you can rely on a skill you learned in kindergarten! Plot the given points and count... ‡ up/down

rise over run
up over right



‡ left/right

OPTION 3 - The line is already graphed

‡ Look for exact points where the graph is crossing exact locations on your graph paper and count! ‡ up/down ‡ left/right

‡ Find the exact graph coordinates and use in slope formula above.