

Rational Expressions and Equations

1. The price per person of renting a banquet room varies inversely with the number of people renting the room. It costs \$20 per person if 27 people rent the room. About how much will it cost per person if 34 people rent the room?

$$y = \frac{k}{x} \rightarrow 20 = \frac{k}{27} \rightarrow 540 = k \rightarrow y = \frac{540}{k}$$

$$y = \frac{540}{34} = \boxed{\$15.88}$$

2. The variables x and y vary inversely. Use the given values to write an equation relating x and y .

$x = -6, y = 3$

$$y = \frac{k}{x} \rightarrow \cancel{3} = \frac{k}{-6} \quad k = -18$$

$$\boxed{y = \frac{-18}{x}}$$

3. Identify the vertical asymptote(s) of the graph of the function.

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 9}{x^2 - x - 20}$$

vertical asymptotes: denominator = 0. $x^2 - x - 20 = 0$

$$(x - 5)(x + 4) = 0$$

$$\boxed{x = 5 \text{ and } x = -4}$$

4. Simplify the rational expression, if possible.

$$\frac{n^2 - 8n + 16}{n^2 + 2n - 24}$$

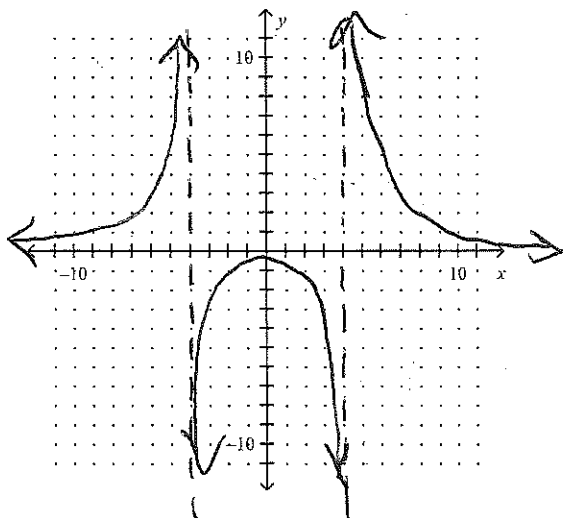
$$\frac{(n-4)(n-4)}{(n-4)(n+6)}$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\cancel{(n-4)}(n-4)}{\cancel{(n-4)}(n+6)}$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{\frac{n-4}{n+6}}$$

5. Graph the function.

$$f(x) = \frac{2}{x^2 - 16}$$



x-intercept: none

Vert. Asymptote(s)

$$x^2 - 16 = 0$$

$$(x - 4)(x + 4) = 0$$

$$x = 4 \text{ and } -4$$

Horizontal Asymptote:

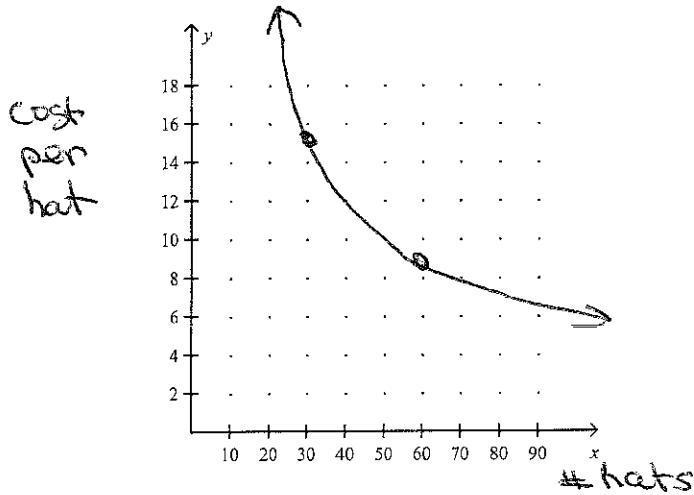
$$m = 0$$

$$m < n$$

$$n = 2$$

$y = 0$ is horizontal asymptote

6. You are selling hats for a fundraiser. The cost of making the designs and buying blank hats is \$425. In addition to these one time charges, the cost of printing each hat is \$1.75. Let x represent the number of hats that are printed. Write a model that represents the average cost per hat. Then graph the model.



$$y = \frac{425 + 1.75x}{x}$$

Sample points to graph:

$$x = 30 \quad y = 15.92$$

$$x = 60 \quad y = 8.83$$

- a. State the domain and range:

$$x > 0, \quad y > 0$$

- b. What is the average cost if 40 hats are produced? \$12.38

- c. If 80 hats are produced? \$7.06

7. Multiply the expressions. Simplify the result.

$$\frac{4y^2}{9} \cdot \frac{18x}{13y} = \frac{4\cancel{y^2}}{9} \cdot \frac{18x}{13\cancel{y}} = \frac{8xy}{13}$$

8. Multiply the expressions. Simplify the result.

$$\frac{(x-1)^2}{x+5} \cdot \frac{x^2+5x}{x^2-1} = \frac{(x-1)(x-1)}{(x+5)} \cdot \frac{x(x+5)}{(x-1)(x+1)}$$

$$= \frac{\cancel{(x-1)}(x-1)}{\cancel{(x+5)}} \cdot \frac{x\cancel{(x+5)}}{\cancel{(x-1)}(x+1)} = \frac{x(x-1)}{(x+1)}$$

9. Divide the expressions. Simplify the result.

$$\frac{3k^2}{9z^3} \div \frac{k^6}{z^7} = \frac{3k^2}{9z^3} \cdot \frac{z^7}{k^6} = \frac{z^4}{3k^4}$$

10. Divide the expressions. Simplify the result.

$$\frac{x^2 + 10x + 21}{x^2 - 9} \div \frac{x+7}{x-7} = \frac{(x+7)(x+3)}{(x-3)(x+3)} \cdot \frac{(x-7)}{(x+7)}$$

$$= \frac{\cancel{(x+7)}(x+3)}{(x-3)\cancel{(x+3)}} \cdot \frac{(x-7)}{\cancel{(x+7)}} = \frac{(x-7)}{(x-3)}$$

11. Perform the indicated operation(s) and simplify.

$$\frac{-3x-3}{45x} + \frac{-2x+3}{45x} = \frac{-3x-3-2x+3}{45x}$$

$$= \frac{-5x}{45x} = \frac{-5\cancel{x}}{9\cancel{45}x} = \frac{1}{9}$$

12. Perform the indicated operation(s) and simplify. $\frac{9}{x+2} + \frac{8}{x-2}$ ~~Common Denominator~~ Common Denominator $(x+2)(x-2)$

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

$$\frac{8}{x-2} \cdot \frac{(x+2)}{(x+2)} = \frac{8(x+2)}{(x+2)(x-2)}$$

$$\frac{9(x-2) + 8(x+2)}{(x+2)(x-2)} = \frac{9x - 18 + 8x + 16}{(x+2)(x-2)}$$

$$= \frac{17x - 2}{(x+2)(x-2)}$$

13. Perform the indicated operation(s) and simplify. $\frac{3x}{x^2-16} + \frac{3}{x+4} - \frac{5}{x-4}$

Common Denominator: $(x+4)(x-4)$

$$\frac{3}{x+4} \cdot \frac{(x-4)}{(x-4)} = \frac{3(x-4)}{(x+4)(x-4)}$$

$$\frac{5}{x-4} \cdot \frac{(x+4)}{(x+4)} = \frac{5(x+4)}{(x+4)(x-4)}$$

$$\frac{3x + 3(x-4) - 5(x+4)}{(x+4)(x-4)} = \frac{3x + 3x - 12 - 5x - 20}{(x+4)(x-4)}$$

$$= \frac{x - 32}{(x+4)(x-4)}$$

14. Solve the equation. Check for extraneous solutions. $8x \left[\frac{x+2}{2x} - \frac{1}{4x} = \frac{1}{8} \right]$

$$4(x+2) - 2 = x$$

$$4x + 8 - 2 = x$$

$$4x + 6 = x$$

$$3x = -6$$

$$x = -2$$

check: $\frac{-2+2}{2(-2)} - \frac{1}{4(-2)} = \frac{1}{8}$

$$0 + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{8} \quad \checkmark$$

15. Solve the equation. Check for extraneous solutions. $\frac{-4}{x+3} = \frac{5}{x-3}$

$$-4(x-3) = 5(x+3)$$

$$-4x + 12 = 5x + 15$$

$$-3 = 9x$$

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

check: $\frac{-4}{-\frac{1}{3}+3} = \frac{5}{-\frac{1}{3}-3}$

$$\frac{-4}{\frac{8}{3}} = \frac{5}{-\frac{10}{3}}$$

$$-1\frac{1}{2} = -1\frac{1}{2} \quad \checkmark$$

16. Solve the equation. Check for extraneous solutions. $\frac{2}{3x} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{4}{3x}$

$$6x \left[\frac{2}{3x} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{4}{3x} \right]$$

$$4 + x = 8$$

$$x = 4$$

check: $\frac{2}{12} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{4}{12}$

$$\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{2}{6}$$

$$\frac{2}{6} = \frac{2}{6} \quad \checkmark$$

17. Solve the equation. Check for extraneous solutions.

$$\frac{k}{k+4} + \frac{4}{k-4} = \frac{2k+15}{(k+4)(k-4)}$$

$$k(k-4) + 4(k+4) = 2k + 15$$

$$k^2 - 4k + 4k + 16 = 2k + 15$$

$$k^2 - 2k + 1 = 0$$

$$(k-1)(k-1) = 0 \quad \boxed{k=1}$$

check: $\frac{1}{5} + \frac{4}{-3} = \frac{17}{-15}$

$\frac{3}{15} - \frac{20}{15} = \frac{-17}{15}$ ✓

Sketch the graph of the function. Include any vertical or horizontal asymptotes.

18.

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

x-int: none

vert. Asymptote: $x=3$

Horiz. Asymp: $m=0$

$$n=1$$

$$m < n$$

$y=0$ is horizontal asymptote

