

Inverse Functions

A function f has an inverse only if the function f is one-to-one. (It passes the vertical and horizontal line tests.)

The inverse function is denoted as f^{-1} .

Example:

Find the inverse of $f(x) = 2x + 8$.

1. Replace $f(x)$ with y .

$$y = 2x + 8$$

2. Interchange x and y .

$$x = 2y + 8$$

3. Solve for y .

$$x - 8 = 2y$$

$$\frac{x}{2} - 4 = y$$

$$f^{-1}(x) = \frac{x}{2} - 4$$

Find the inverse of the following functions.

1. $f(x) = 4x - 8$

2. $f(x) = 3x + 6$

3. $f(x) = \frac{x}{2} - 1$

4. $f(x) = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)x + 4$

5. $f(x) = \frac{4}{5x} - 3$

6. $f(x) = x^3$