

Objective: The student will be able to recognize a sequence, distinguish between arithmetic and geometric sequences, and understand/calculate the parts of each equation.

Sequence – A set of numbers in a specific order. It is discrete, not continuous.

Example1 - 8, 11, 14, 17, ...

Example2 - 6, 12, 24, 48 ...

Discrete – Data that can only take certain values.

For example: the number of students in a class (you can't have half a student).

Term – Each number in the sequence.

In Example 1 above – the 2nd term is 11, the 4th term is 17.

Types of Sequences

Formulas:

$$a_n = a_0 + d \cdot n$$

Arithmetic Sequence – A sequence made by adding the same value each time.

$$a_n = \underline{\hspace{15em}}$$

$$a_0 = \underline{\hspace{15em}}$$

$$d = \underline{\hspace{15em}}$$

Does this sequence and it's formula remind you of an equation we've worked with earlier this year?

$$n = \underline{\hspace{15em}}$$

Example: Write an equation for the following arithmetic sequences.

a. 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, ...

b. -3, -6, -9, -12, ...

Geometric Sequence – A sequence made by multiplying the same value each time.

Formulas:

$$a_n = a_0 \cdot r^n$$

$$a_n = \underline{\hspace{15cm}}$$

$$a_0 = \underline{\hspace{15cm}}$$

$$r = \underline{\hspace{15cm}}$$

$$n = \underline{\hspace{15cm}}$$

Example: Write an equation for the following geometric sequences.

a. 1, 4, 16, 64, 256, ...

b. -32, 16, -8, 4, ...

What if you can't easily find the '0' term?

Example: Write an equation for the following arithmetic sequences without using a_0 .

a. 10, 14, 18, 22, ... (use a_1)

b. -10, -5, 0, 5, 10, ... (use a_4)

Example: Write an equation for the following geometric sequences without using a_0 .

a. 1, 3, 9, 27, 81, ... (use a_5)

b. 512, 256, 128, 64, ... (use a_3)

What if you're given a term and have to find the 'n'?

Example: Given: $a_n = -30 + 6n$; If $a_n = 48$, what is n ?

Example: Given: $a_n = 90 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^n$; If $a_n = \frac{10}{27}$, what is n ?

Practice:

I. For each sequence, state if it is arithmetic, geometric, or neither. Then, if it's arithmetic or geometric, write a formula for it.

a. 8, 6, 4, 2, 0, -2, ...

b. -4, 12, -36, 108, -324

c. 64, 48, 36, ...

d. 0, 3, 8, 15, 24

e. -24, -26, -18, -10, -2

f. $5, 1, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{25}, \frac{1}{125}$

II. Write the first 3 terms of the following sequences.

a. $a_n = -43 + 4n$

b. $a_n = 2 \cdot (-3)^n$

$a_1 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} a_2 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} a_3 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

$a_1 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} a_2 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} a_3 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

b. $a_n = 3 \cdot (2)^{n-1}$

d. $a_n = -163 + 200(n - 1)$

$a_1 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} a_2 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} a_3 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

$a_1 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} a_2 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} a_3 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

Practice.

1. $a_n = 16 + 5n$

a. Find the 80th term.

b. If $a_n = 71$, what is n ?

5. $a_n = 3 \cdot 2^n$

a. Find the 10th term.

b. If $a_n = 192$, what is n ?

2. $a_n = -8 + 2n$

a. Find the 50th term.

b. If $a_n = 44$, what is n ?

6. $a_n = 700(0.8)^n$

a. Find the 20th term.

b. If $a_n = 358.4$, what is n ?

3. $a_n = 1080 - 36n$

a. Find the 16th term.

b. If $a_n = 900$, what is n ?

7. $a_n = 60\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$

a. Find the 10th term.

b. If $a_n = \frac{15}{8}$, what is n ?

4. $a_n = -600 + 5n$

a. Find the 900th term.

b. If $a_n = -225$, what is n ?

8. $a_n = 1000(0.95)^n$

a. Find the 16th term.

b. If $a_n = 902.5$, what is n ?