

WARMUP  $12/\left(\sqrt{\sqrt{\sqrt{256}}}\right)$



What percent of the pie has been eaten?

<http://www.estimation180.com/day-113.html>



# NEW UNIT: SEQUENCES

## OBJECTIVES:

- Learn about what a sequence is
- Know the two most common types of sequences
- Write a recursive rule for a sequence



- 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, ...

- This is an example of a sequence.

- How many terms do you see?

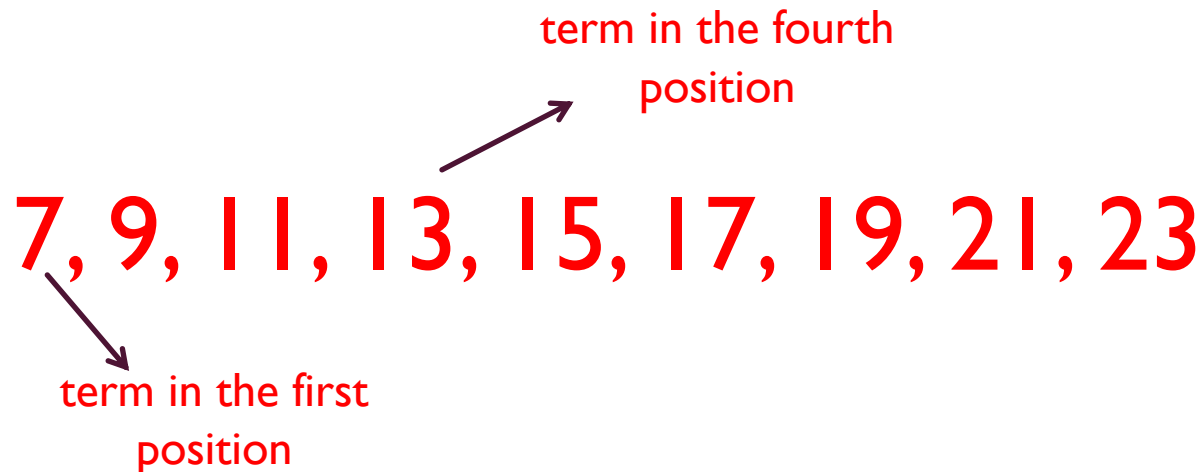
- How many terms could there be?

- Which term is in the third position?

- What would the term in the 6<sup>th</sup> position be?

# SEQUENCES AND FUNCTIONS

- A **sequence** is a list of numbers in a specific order.
- Each element in a sequence is called a **term**
- Each term has a **position number**



# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SEQUENCES AND REGULAR FUNCTIONS

- A sequence has **NO ZEROTH TERM**. A sequence starts with the first term.
  - This is different than functions, when we usually think of the “original value” as the value when  $x$  is 0.
- There are **no decimal** term positions. You have the 1<sup>st</sup> term, 2<sup>nd</sup> term, 3<sup>rd</sup> term, with nothing in between
  - With functions, the “input” can be anything, including decimals
- If you were to graph a sequence (we usually don't), you would **NEVER** connect the points

## CAN YOU FIND THE NEXT 3 TERMS?

1. 8, 15, 22, 29, ...

36, 43, 50 (always adding 7)

2. 10, 20, 40, 80, ...

160, 320, 640 (always multiplying by 2)

3. 5, 6, 8, 11, 15, ...

20, 26, 33 (adding 1, then 2, then 3, etc.)

4. 5.4, 4.2, 3, 1.8, ...

0.6, -0.6, -1.8 (always subtracting 1.2, or adding -1.2)

5.  $0, \frac{3}{4}, 1\frac{1}{2}, 2\frac{1}{4}, \dots$

3,  $3\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , (always adding  $\frac{3}{4}$ )

6. 10, 5,  $\frac{5}{2}$ , ...

$\frac{5}{4}$ ,  $\frac{5}{8}$ ,  $\frac{5}{16}$  (always dividing by 2, or multiplying by  $\frac{1}{2}$ )

**#1, #4, and #5** are called arithmetic sequences

**#2, and #6** are called geometric sequences

**#3** is neither one

## 2 MOST COMMON TYPES OF SEQUENCES

- **Arithmetic Sequence:** When the terms in the sequence have a **common difference (d)**
  - (Basically, a sequence that is linear)
- **Geometric Sequence:** When the terms in the sequence have a **common ratio (r)**
  - (Basically, a sequence that is exponential)
- BY THE WAY: “Arithmetic” as a noun is pronounced differently than “Arithmetic” as an adjective!




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Determine whether the sequence appears to be an **arithmetic, geometric, or neither**. If arithmetic or geometric, find the next 3 terms, and write the common difference or common ratio.

**9, 13, 17, 21, ...**

Arithmetic  
common difference: 4  
next three terms: 25, 29, 33



Determine whether the sequence appears to be an **arithmetic, geometric, or neither**. If arithmetic or geometric, find the next 3 terms, and write the common difference or common ratio.

**10, 8, 5, 1, ...**

Neither; no common difference or ratio

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Determine whether the sequence appears to be an **arithmetic, geometric, or neither**. If arithmetic or geometric, find the next 3 terms, and write the common difference or common ratio.

**7, 70, 700, 7000, ...**

Geometric

Common ratio = 10

Next 3 terms: 70000, 700000, 7000000

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Determine whether the sequence appears to be an **arithmetic, geometric, or neither**. If arithmetic or geometric, find the next 3 terms, and write the common difference or common ratio.

**8, 2, -4, -10...**

Arithmetic

common difference: -6


next three terms: -16, -22, -28



Determine whether the sequence appears to be an **arithmetic, geometric, or neither**. If arithmetic or geometric, find the next 3 terms, and write the common difference or common ratio.

**-4, -2, 1, 5, ...**

Neither, no common difference or ratio



Determine whether the sequence appears to be an **arithmetic, geometric, or neither**. If arithmetic or geometric, find the next 3 terms, and write the common difference or common ratio.

**320, 80, 20, ...**

Geometric

Common ratio =  $\frac{1}{4}$

Next 3 terms: 5,  $\frac{5}{4}$ ,  $\frac{5}{16}$

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Determine whether the sequence appears to be an **arithmetic, geometric, or neither**. If arithmetic or geometric, find the next 3 terms, and write the common difference or common ratio.

$$-\frac{3}{4}, -\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \dots$$

Arithmetic

common difference:  $\frac{2}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$

next three terms:  $\frac{5}{4}$ ,  $\frac{7}{4}$ ,  $\frac{9}{4}$

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Determine whether the sequence appears to be an **arithmetic sequence**. If so, find the common difference and the next three terms.

$$\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}, \dots$$

Neither, no common difference between terms



I AM THINKING OF A SEQUENCE...

- The first term is 8.
- Can you tell me the sequence?

I AM THINKING OF A SEQUENCE...

- With each term, I am adding 4.
- Can you tell me the sequence?

## I AM THINKING OF A SEQUENCE...

- The first term is 13. I multiply the previous term by 2 to get the next term.
- Can you tell me the sequence?

# RECURSIVE RULES

- We can precisely describe any sequence by stating the first term and describing how to get from one term to the next. This is called a **recursive rule**.

## RECURSIVE RULES

- 10, 16, 22, 28, ...
- **FIRST TERM** = 10
- **ANY TERM** = **PREVIOUS TERM** + 6

## RECURSIVE RULES

- 40, 60, 90, 135, ...
- **FIRST TERM** = 40
- **ANY TERM** = **PREVIOUS TERM** x 1.5

# SEQUENCE NOTATION

- Things like “first term” and “previous term” are too long and wordy for mathematicians. Instead, we have a special notation for sequences, which is the letter “a” with a subscript:

- $a_1 = 1^{\text{st}}$  term
- $a_{13} = 13^{\text{th}}$  term
- $a_n = n^{\text{th}}$  term

**DISCUSS:** If “ $a_n$ ” describes any term, how could you write “the term before  $a_n$ ”???

## RECURSIVE RULES

- 12, 20, 28, ...
  - **FIRST TERM** = 12
  - **ANY TERM** = **PREVIOUS TERM** + 8
  
  - $a_1 = 12$
  - $a_n = a_{n-1} + 8$
- Why do we need both parts of this?**



YOU CAN ALSO DO IT THIS WAY...

- 10, 16, 22, 28, ...
- **FIRST TERM** = 10
- **NEXT TERM** = **CURRENT TERM** + 6
  
- $a_1 = 10$
- $a_{n+1} = a_n + 6$

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**Determine whether the sequence is arithmetic or geometric. Then write the recursive rule for the sequence.**

**15, 26, 37, 48, ...**

$$a_1 = 15$$

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 11$$

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**Determine whether the sequence is arithmetic or geometric. Then write the recursive rule for the sequence.**

**3, 12, 48, 192, ...**

$$a_1 = 3;$$

$$a_n = 4 \cdot a_{n-1}$$

# ALTERNATE NOTATION FOR SEQUENCES...

- Although **subscript** notation is the most common way to write sequences, you can also use function notation.

- $a_n$  can also be written as  $f(n)$

- $a_{n-1}$  can also be written as  $f(n - 1)$

- $a_{12}$  can also be written as  $f(12)$

- **etc.**

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**Write the recursive rule for the sequence. Use function notation!**

**3, 23, 43, 63, ...**

$$f(1) = 3;$$

$$f(n) = f(n - 1) + 20$$

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**Write the recursive rule for the sequence. Use function notation.**

**6, 12, 24, 48, ...**

$$f(1) = 6;$$

$$f(n) = 2 \cdot f(n - 1)$$

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**Write the recursive rule for the sequence.**

**$1/2, 1/8, 1/32, 1/128, \dots$**

$$f(1) = \frac{1}{2};$$

$$f(n) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot f(n - 1)$$

WHAT ARE THE FIRST FOUR TERMS OF THE SEQUENCE DEFINED BY THE RECURSIVE RULE?

$$a_1 = 4$$

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 5$$

4, 9, 14, 19



WHAT ARE THE FIRST FOUR TERMS OF THE SEQUENCE DEFINED BY THE RECURSIVE RULE?

$$a_1 = 4$$

$$a_n = 5 \cdot a_{n-1}$$

4, 20, 100, 500

WHAT ARE THE FIRST FOUR TERMS OF THE SEQUENCE DEFINED BY THE RECURSIVE RULE?

$$a_1 = 4$$

$$a_{n+1} = a_n + 8$$

4, 12, 20, 28

WHAT ARE THE FIRST FOUR TERMS OF THE SEQUENCE  
DEFINED BY THE RECURSIVE RULE?

$$a_1 = 4$$

$$a_{n+1} = 3 \cdot a_n$$

4, 12, 36, 108