

8-2 Arithmetic Sequences and Partial Sums

Day 1

Arithmetic Sequence: A sequence whose consecutive terms have a common difference d .

Ex 1) 10, 8, 6, 4, 2, ... $d = -2$

$$8 - 10 = -2$$

$$2 - 4 = -2$$

Ex 2) 3, $5\frac{1}{2}$, 2, $3\frac{1}{2}$, 1, ... $d = -\frac{1}{2}$

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

Write the first 5 terms. Assume $n = 1$.

Ex 3) $a_n = 8 + 13n$

$$a_1 = 8 + 13(1) = 21$$

$$a_2 = 8 + 13(2) = 34$$

$$a_3 = 8 + 13(3) = 47$$

$$a_4 = 8 + 13(4) = 60$$

$$a_5 = 8 + 13(5) = 73$$

$$d = 13$$

Find the formula for a_n for the arithmetic sequence.

Form: $a_n = dn + c$, where $c = a_1 - d$

Ex 4) $a_1 = 2, d = 3$

$$c = 2 - 3$$

$$c = -1$$

$$a_n = 3n - 1$$

Ex 5) 4, $3\frac{1}{2}$, -1, $-7\frac{1}{2}$, ...

$$a_1 = 4$$

$$d = \frac{3}{2} - 4$$

$$d = \frac{3}{2} - \frac{8}{2}$$

$$d = -\frac{5}{2}$$

$$c = a_1 - d$$

$$c = 4 + \frac{5}{2}$$

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

$$a_n = -2.5n + 6.5$$

Use the table feature of a grapher to find the first 10 terms assuming n begins with 1.

Ex 6) $a_n = 4n - 5$

-1, 3, 7, 11, 15, 19, 23, 27, 31, 35