

Inverse Unlock

Reverse a function to solve for the input.

HIGH SCHOOL • HSF-BF.B.4a

CCSS.Math.Content.HSF-BF.B.4a "Solve an equation of the form $f(x) = c$ for a simple function f that has an inverse and write an expression for the inverse. For example, $f(x) = 2x + 3$ or $f(x) = (x+1)/(x-1)$ for $x \neq 1$."

NAME _____

DATE _____

REVERSE THE RULE

To find an inverse, write $y=f(x)$, switch x and y , and solve for y . If f has an inverse, you can solve $f(x)=c$ by finding $f^{-1}(c)$. Keep any domain restrictions that prevent a denominator from being zero or make a function one-to-one.

WORKED EXAMPLE

For $f(x)=8x-11$, find $f^{-1}(x)$ and solve $f(x)=29$.

1. Write $y=8x-11$.
2. Swap x and y : $x=8y-11$.
3. Solve for y : $y=(x+11)/8$.
4. Evaluate the inverse: $f^{-1}(29)=(29+11)/8=5$.

Answer: $f^{-1}(x)=(x+11)/8$; $x=5$

PRACTICE 6 problems

- 1** For $f(x)=3x+2$, find $f^{-1}(x)$. Then solve $f(x)=20$.

ANSWER _____

- 2** For $f(x)=(x-1)/6$, find $f^{-1}(x)$. Then solve $f(x)=4$.

ANSWER _____

- 3** For $f(x)=7-2x$, find $f^{-1}(x)$. Then solve $f(x)=1$.

ANSWER _____

- 4** For $f(x)=(x+2)/(x-3)$, $x \neq 3$, find $f^{-1}(x)$. Then solve $f(x)=4$.

ANSWER _____

- 5** For $f(x)=(7x+1)/3$, find $f^{-1}(x)$. Then solve $f(x)=6$.

ANSWER _____

- 6** For $f(x)=x^2$ with $x \geq 0$, find $f^{-1}(x)$. Then solve $f(x)=49$.

ANSWER _____

APPLY IT Show your work

- 1** A student orders custom stickers. The total cost, in dollars, is $C(n)=6n+4$, where n is the number of stickers. Write $C^{-1}(x)$. Then find how many stickers were ordered if the total cost was \$22.

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

- 2** During a science club project, a sensor reports temperature in kelvins using $K(c)=c+273$, where c is the temperature in degrees Celsius. Write $K^{-1}(x)$. Then find the Celsius temperature when the sensor reads 293 K.

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

CHALLENGE One step up

CHALLENGE

For $f(x)=(2x-3)/(x+4)$, $x \neq -4$, write $f^{-1}(x)$, solve $f(x)=1$, and state the excluded value for the inverse.

PART 1 • PRACTICE

#	PROBLEM	ANSWER
1	For $f(x)=3x+2$, find $f^{-1}(x)$. Then solve $f(x)=20$.	$f^{-1}(x)=(x-2)/3$; $x=6$
2	For $f(x)=(x-1)/6$, find $f^{-1}(x)$. Then solve $f(x)=4$.	$f^{-1}(x)=6x+1$; $x=25$
3	For $f(x)=7-2x$, find $f^{-1}(x)$. Then solve $f(x)=1$.	$f^{-1}(x)=(7-x)/2$; $x=3$
4	For $f(x)=(x+2)/(x-3)$, $x \neq 3$, find $f^{-1}(x)$. Then solve $f(x)=4$.	$f^{-1}(x)=(3x+2)/(x-1)$, $x \neq 1$; $x=14/3$
5	For $f(x)=(7x+1)/3$, find $f^{-1}(x)$. Then solve $f(x)=6$.	$f^{-1}(x)=(3x-1)/7$; $x=17/7$
6	For $f(x)=x^2$ with $x \geq 0$, find $f^{-1}(x)$. Then solve $f(x)=49$.	$f^{-1}(x)=\sqrt{x}$, $x \geq 0$; $x=7$

PART 2 • APPLY IT

- $C^{-1}(x)=(x-4)/6$; **3 stickers** Reverse the cost rule by subtracting 4 and dividing by 6. $C^{-1}(22)=(22-4)/6=3$.
- $K^{-1}(x)=x-273$; **20 degrees Celsius** Reverse the conversion by subtracting 273. $K^{-1}(293)=293-273=20$.

CHALLENGE

$$f^{-1}(x)=(4x+3)/(2-x), x \neq 2; f(x)=1 \text{ when } x=7.$$

Accept algebraically equivalent inverse expressions, including equivalent forms with both numerator and denominator multiplied by -1. Require the stated restrictions for the rational functions and the nonnegative domain for the square function.