

Solving Inequalities, and Graphing on a Number Line

What is an INEQUALITY?

Two expressions that are Not equal.

Solution of an inequality: Any value that makes the inequality true.

example: $x > 5$ Any number you plug in that is greater than 5 is a true statement

Any number that makes the inequality true, when substituted for the variable, is a solution of the inequality.

Symbol	What it means	Dot
$<$	less than, fewer than	○ open
\leq	less than or = to	● closed
$>$	greater than, more than	○ open
\geq	Greater than or = to	● closed
\neq	Not equal to	○ open

Key words
• At most
• No more than

Key words
• At least
• No less than

To SOLVE Inequalities:

- Solve using the same rules as solving equations. (Isolate the variable)

EXCEPT:

- When you multiply or divide by a NEGATIVE number, Flip! the inequality symbol.

Ex 1) $3x - 1 > 5$
 $\quad \quad \quad +1 \quad +1$

 $\frac{3x}{3} > \frac{6}{3}$
 $x > 2$

Ex 2) $-2x < 4$
 $\quad \quad \quad \frac{-2x}{-2} < \frac{4}{-2}$
 flip!
 $x > -2$

Ex 3) $2(x+1) \leq -3(x+4)$
 $2x+2 \leq -3x+12$
 $\quad \quad \quad -2x \quad \quad \quad -2x$
 $2 \leq -5x+12$
 $\quad \quad \quad -12 \quad \quad \quad -12$
 $-\frac{10}{-5} \leq \frac{-5x}{-5}$
 flip
 $2 \geq x$

To Graph on a Number Line:

- **Open Circle:** The number is NOT included as a solution
- **Closed Circle:** The number IS included as a solution
- **Shade the number line:**
 - Write the inequality with "x" FIRST
 - Example: if $2 < x$, then rewrite the inequality as $x > 2$
 - Careful!! When you change the order, FLIP THE SIGN.

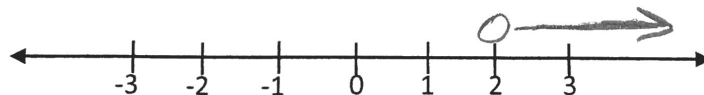
Symmetric Property
⇕
Flip Symbol

- When $x <$ OR $x \leq$ ("less than") Shade left of the number (less than the number)
- When $x >$ OR $x \geq$ ("greater than") Shade right of the number (greater than the number)

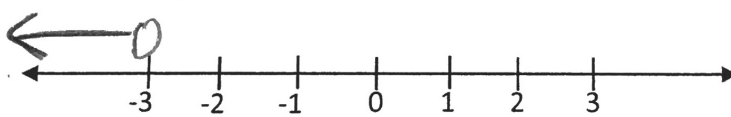
* Only works when x comes first.

make an arrow →

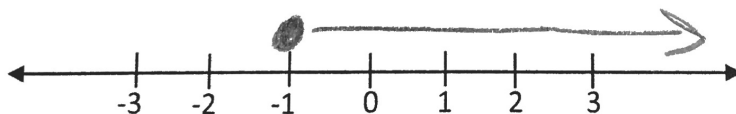
Ex 1) Graph the inequality on the number line: $x > 2$ ("x is greater than 2")



Ex 2) Graph the inequality on the number line: $-3 > x$ → $x < -3$



Ex 3) Graph the inequality on the number line: $x \geq -1$



Ex 4) Graph the inequality on the number line: $-4 \geq x$ → $x \leq -4$

