

Sequences Extra Practice - MUST SHOW ALL WORK FOR CREDIT

For each sequence, state if it is arithmetic, geometric, or neither.

1) $-10, -8, -5, -1, 4, \dots$

neither

2) $-6, -10, -14, -18, -22, \dots$

Arithmetic $d = -4$

3) $4, -12, 36, -108, 324, \dots$

geometric $r = -3$

4) $2, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{8}{27}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{32}{125}, \dots$

neither

5) $1, -5, 25, -125, 625, \dots$

geometric $r = -5$

6) $26, 22, 18, 14, 10, \dots$

arithmetic $d = -4$

Find the explicit formula and the recursive formula.

7) $-32, -39, -46, -53, \dots$ Arithmetic $d = -7$

Rec: $a_1 = -32$ $a_n = a_{n-1} - 7$

Exp: $a_n = -32 + (n-1)(-7)$
 $a_n = -32 - 7n + 7$
 $a_n = -25 - 7n$

*must distribute & combine like terms

9) $-30, -130, -230, -330, \dots$ Arithmetic $d = -100$

Rec: $a_1 = -30$ $a_n = a_{n-1} - 100$

Exp: $a_n = -30 + (n-1)(-100)$
 $a_n = -30 - 100n + 100$
 $a_n = -10 - 100n$

11) $-3, 9, -27, 81, \dots$ Geometric $r = -3$

Rec: $a_1 = -3$ $a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot -3$

Exp: $a_n = -3(-3)^{n-1}$

13) $-4, 20, -100, 500, \dots$ Geometric $r = -5$

Rec: $a_1 = -4$ $a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot -5$

Exp: $a_n = -4(-5)^{n-1}$

8) $-37, -30, -23, -16, \dots$ Arithmetic $d = 7$

Rec: $a_1 = -37$ $a_n = a_{n-1} + 7$

Exp: $a_n = -37 + (n-1)(7)$
 $a_n = -37 + 7n - 7$
 $a_n = 7n - 44$

10) $-9, -7, -5, -3, \dots$ Arithmetic $d = +2$

Rec: $a_1 = -9$ $a_n = a_{n-1} + 2$

Exp: $a_n = -9 + (n-1)(2)$
 $a_n = -9 + 2n - 2$
 $a_n = 2n - 11$

12) $-3, 6, -12, 24, \dots$ Geometric $r = -2$

Rec: $a_1 = -3$ $a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot -2$

Exp: $a_n = -3(-2)^{n-1}$

14) $-3, 18, -108, 648, \dots$ Geometric $r = -6$

Rec: $a_1 = -3$ $a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot -6$

Exp: $a_n = -3(-6)^{n-1}$

Given the first term and the common difference of an arithmetic sequence list the next three terms.

15) $a_1 = 40, d = 7$

$$40, \boxed{47, 54, 61}$$

Find the term named in the problem.

17) $-12, -7, -2, 3, \dots$ Arithmetic $d = 5$

Find a_{34}

$$a_{34} = -12 + (34-1)(5)$$

$$\boxed{a_{34} = 153}$$

the 34^{th} term
is 153

19) $4, -2, 1, -\frac{1}{2}, \dots$ Geometric $r = -\frac{1}{2}$

Find a_{12}

$$a_{12} = 4 \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^{12-1}$$

$$\boxed{a_{12} = \frac{-1}{512}}$$

Given a term in an arithmetic sequence and the common difference find the term named in the problem.

21) $a_{23} = -206, d = -10$

Find a_{33}

$$a_n = -206 + (n-23)(-10)$$

$$a_{33} = -206 + (33-23)(-10)$$

$$\boxed{a_{33} = -306}$$

Given a term in a geometric sequence and the common ratio find the term named in the problem.

*Manipulate the formula Since you don't know a_1 ! *

23) $a_6 = \frac{1}{8}, r = \frac{1}{2}$

Find a_{12}

$$a_n = \frac{1}{8} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-6}$$

$$a_{12} = \frac{1}{8} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{12-6}$$

$$\boxed{a_{12} = \frac{1}{512}}$$

Given the first term and the common ratio of a geometric sequence list the next three terms.

16) $a_1 = 3, r = -5$

$$3, \boxed{-15, 75, -375}$$

18) $18, -82, -182, -282, \dots$ Arithmetic $d = -100$

Find a_{21}

$$a_{21} = 18 + (21-1)(-100)$$

$$\boxed{a_{21} = -1982}$$

20) $-2, -10, -50, -250, \dots$ Geometric $r = 5$

Find a_9

$$a_9 = -2(5)^{9-1}$$

$$\boxed{a_9 = -781250}$$

Given a term in an arithmetic sequence and the common difference find the term named in the problem.

*Manipulate the formula Since you don't know a_1 ! *

22) $a_{33} = 661, d = 20$

Find a_{37}

$$a_n = 661 + (n-33)(20)$$

$$a_{37} = 661 + (37-33)(20)$$

$$\boxed{a_{37} = 741}$$

24) $a_6 = 6250, r = -5$

Find a_9

$$a_n = 6250(-5)^{n-6}$$

$$a_9 = 6250(-5)^{9-6}$$

$$\boxed{a_9 = -781250}$$

Arithmetic $d=2$

25. Which term is 8192 in the sequence

$$2, 4, 6, 8, \dots$$

8192
?

$$8192 = 2 + (n-1)(2)$$

$$8190 = (n-1)(2)$$

$$4096 = n-1$$

$$\boxed{4097 = n}$$

27. Determine the number of terms in the sequence

$$a_1 = -6 \\ d = -4 \\ l_n = -74 \\ n = ?$$

$$-6, -10, -14, \dots -74$$

Arithmetic $d=-4$

$$-74 = -6 + (n-1)(-4)$$

$$-68 = (n-1)(-4)$$

$$17 = n-1$$

$$\boxed{18 = n}$$

Given the following two terms in an ARITHMETIC SEQUENCE, find the term named in the problem.

29. $a_{11} = 226$ and $a_{35} = 706$. Find a_{24} .

manipulate eqn: $a_n = a_1 + (n-1)d$

find d: $706 = 226 + (35-11)d$

$$480 = 24d$$

$$20 = d$$

update eqn: $a_n = a_1 + (n-1)(20)$

find a_{24} : $a_{24} = 226 + (24-11)(20)$

$$\boxed{a_{24} = 486}$$

Given the following two terms in a GEOMETRIC SEQUENCE, find the term named in the problem.

31. $a_2 = 12$ and $a_5 = -324$. Find a_{10} .

manipulate eqn: $a_n = a_1(r)^{n-1}$

find r: $-324 = 12(r)^{5-2}$

$$-27 = r^3$$

$$-3 = r$$

update eqn: $a_n = 12(-3)^{n-2}$

find a_{10} : $a_{10} = 12(-3)^{10-2}$

$$\boxed{a_{10} = 78732}$$

Arithmetic $d=4$

26. How many terms are in the sequence

$$a_1 = -11$$

$$d = 4$$

$$a_n = 33$$

$$n = ?$$

$$-11, -7, -3, \dots 33$$

$$33 = -11 + (n-1)(4)$$

$$44 = (n-1)(4)$$

$$11 = n-1$$

$$\boxed{12 = n}$$

28. Which term is 3125 in the sequence

$$a_1 = \frac{1}{625}, \frac{1}{125}, \frac{1}{25}, \dots$$

Geometric $r=5$

$$r = 5$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{625}(5)^{n-1}$$

$$n = ?$$

$$1953125 = 5^{n-1}$$

$$\log_5 1953125 = n-1$$

$$9 = n-1$$

$$\boxed{10 = n}$$

30. $a_{19} = -12$ and $a_{32} = -38$. Find a_{37} .

manipulate eqn: $a_n = a_1 + (n-1)d$

find d: $-38 = -12 + (32-19)d$

$$-26 = 13d$$

$$d = -2$$

update eqn: $a_n = -12 + (n-1)(-2)$

find a_{37} : $a_{37} = -12 + (37-19)(-2)$

$$\boxed{a_{37} = -48}$$

32. $a_3 = 36$ and $a_6 = -972$. Find a_{12} .

manipulate eqn: $a_n = a_1(r)^{n-1}$

find r: $-972 = 36(r)^{6-3}$

$$-27 = r^3$$

$$-3 = r$$

update eqn: $a_n = 36(-3)^{n-1}$

find a_{12} : $a_{12} = 36(-3)^{12-1}$

$$\boxed{a_{12} = -708588}$$

33. $a_3 = -\frac{2}{3}$ and $a_6 = \frac{16}{81}$. Find a_{11} .

manipulate eqn: $a_n = -\frac{2}{3}(r)^{n-3}$

find r: $\frac{16}{81} = -\frac{2}{3}(r)^{6-3}$

$$\frac{-8}{27} = r^3$$

$$r = -\frac{2}{3}$$

update eqn: $a_n = -\frac{2}{3}\left(-\frac{2}{3}\right)^{n-3}$

find a_{11} : $a_{11} = -\frac{2}{3}\left(-\frac{2}{3}\right)^{11-3}$

$$a_{11} = \frac{-512}{19683} \text{ or}$$

$$a_{11} = -0.0260123$$

CHALLENGE PROBLEMS!!! Think you've mastered sequences? Give these more difficult problems a try!

34. In an arithmetic sequence, $a_2 = 5k + 3j$ and $a_3 = 4k + 4j$. Find the 8th term.

manipulate eqn: $a_n = 5k + 3j + (n-2)d$

find d: $4k + 4j = 5k + 3j + (3-2)d$
 $4k + 4j = 5k + 3j + d$
 $-k + j = d$

update eqn: $a_n = 5k + 3j + (n-2)(-k+j)$

find a_8 : $a_8 = 5k + 3j + (8-2)(-k+j)$
 $a_8 = 5k + 3j + 6(-k+j)$
 $a_8 = 5k + 3j - 6k + 6j$
 $a_8 = -k + 9j$

35. Find the 23rd term of the sequence: $5\sqrt{2}, -3\sqrt{2}, -11\sqrt{2}, \dots$

Arithmetic $\rightarrow d = -8\sqrt{2}$

$$a_{23} = 5\sqrt{2} + (23-1)(-8\sqrt{2})$$

$$a_{23} = 5\sqrt{2} + 22(-8\sqrt{2})$$

$$a_{23} = 5\sqrt{2} - 176\sqrt{2}$$

$$a_{23} = -171\sqrt{2}$$

36. How many multiples of 13 are there between 33 and 215?

Multiples of 13 are #s that 13 will go into

between 33 & 215:

smallest $\rightarrow 39$

largest $\rightarrow 208$

$$\begin{cases} a_1 = 39 \\ a_n = 208 \\ d = 13 \\ n = ? \end{cases}$$

$$208 = 39 + (n-1)(13)$$

$$169 = (n-1)(13)$$

$$13 = n-1$$

$$n = 14$$

37. Find the 10th term (no decimals!): $-2, -2\sqrt{5}, -10, \dots$

Geometric $\rightarrow r = \sqrt{5}$

$$a_{10} = -2(\sqrt{5})^{10-1}$$

$$a_{10} = -2(\sqrt{5})^9$$

*if you type this into your calc. you get a decimal! write it out instead to see the radicals "cancel"

$$a_{10} = -2 \cdot \sqrt{5} \cdot \sqrt{5} \cdot \sqrt{5} \cdot \sqrt{5} \cdot \sqrt{5} \cdot \sqrt{5} \cdot \sqrt{5}$$

$$a_{10} = -2 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot \sqrt{5}$$

$$a_{10} = -1250\sqrt{5}$$