

# Equations involving absolute value

Recall:

Absolute value is the distance away from zero

1.  $|3| = 3$

3.  $-|6| = -6$

2.  $|-2| = 2$

4.  $|9-4| = |5| = 5$

Simplify the expression:

Evaluate  $|m+6|-14$  when  $m=4$

$$|4+6|-14$$

$$|10|-14$$

$$|10-14|$$

$$|-4|$$

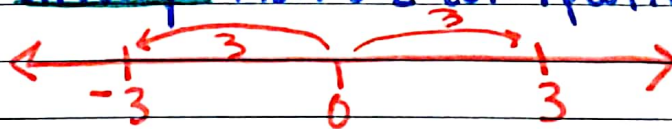
Solve the equation

$$3x+4 = 4x-1$$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} -3x & -3x \\ \hline 4 & x-1 \\ +1 & +1 \\ \hline 5 & x \end{array}$$

$$5 = x$$

When solving absolute value equations you will always have 2 cases, positive and negative



$$|-3| = 3$$

$$|3| = 3$$

Always do it from least to greatest

## Absolute Value Equations

1.  $|x - 7| = 10$

Case 1:  $x - 7 = 10$   
 $x = 17$

Case 2:  $x - 7 = -10$   
 $x = -3$

Solution:  $\{-3, 17\}$

2.  $|-2x + 3| = 1$

Case 1:  $-2x + 3 = 1$   
 $-2x = -2$   
 $x = 1$

Case 2:  $-2x + 3 = -1$   
 $-2x = -4$   
 $x = 2$

Solution:  $\{1, 2\}$

3.  $|x + 5| - 6 = 12$

Case 1:  $|x + 5| = 18$   
 $x + 5 = 18$   
 $x = 13$

Case 2:  $|x + 5| = -18$   
 $x = -23$

Solution:  $\{-23, 13\}$

4.  $|x + 8| = -4$

$x = 4$

Distance cannot be Negative so there is no solution

$$5 \cdot \frac{(12x + 3)}{5} = 10 \cdot 5$$

$$|2x + 3| = 50$$

Case 1

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 2x + 3 = 50 & \\ -3 & -3 \\ \hline 2x & = \frac{47}{2} \end{array}$$

$$x = \frac{47}{2}$$

SOLUTIONS:

$$\left\{ -\frac{53}{2}, \frac{47}{2} \right\}$$



Case 2

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 2x + 3 = -50 & \\ -3 & -3 \\ \hline 2x & = \frac{-53}{2} \\ \hline x & = \frac{-53}{2} \end{array}$$

1. Ice cream should be stored at 5 degrees Fahrenheit with an allowance for 5 degrees. Write and solve an equation to find the maximum and minimum temperatures which ice cream should be stored.

SOLUTIONS:

$$\{0, 10\}$$

$$|x - 5| = 5$$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} x - 5 = 5 & \\ +5 & +5 \\ \hline x & = 10 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} x - 5 = -5 & \\ +5 & +5 \\ \hline x & = 0 \end{array}$$

2. The Red Rocks Amphitheater located in Denver, Colorado, is the only naturally occurring amphitheater. The acoustic qualities here are such that a maximum of 20,000 people, plus or minus 1000, can hear natural voices clearly.

- Write an equation involving an absolute value that represents the number of people that can hear natural voices at the amphitheater.
- Find the maximum and minimum number of people that can hear natural voices clearly in the amphitheater.

c. What is the range of people in part b?

(a)  $|x - 20000| = 1000$

(b) 
$$\begin{array}{r|l} x - 20000 = 1000 & \\ +20000 & +20000 \\ \hline x & = 21000 \end{array}$$

3. Determine whether the following statements are *sometimes*, *always*, or *never* true if  $c$  is an integer:

- The value of  $|x + 1|$  is greater than zero.
- The solution of  $|x + c| = 0$  is greater than 0.
- The inequality  $|x| + c < 0$  has no solution.
- The value of  $|x + c| + c$  is greater than zero.

(b) 
$$\begin{array}{r|l} x - 20000 = -1000 & \\ +20000 & +20000 \\ \hline x & = 19000 \end{array}$$

$$\{19000, 21000\}$$

(c) Between 19000 and 21000