

9.2 Practice Problems

Show that the sequence is arithmetic. Find the common difference and write out the first four terms.

1. $\{s_n\} = \{n+5\}$

$$s_1 = 1+5=6$$

$$s_2 = 2+5=7$$

$$s_3 = 3+5=8$$

$$s_4 = 4+5=9$$

$$d=1$$

2. $\{s_n\} = \{8-5n\}$

$$s_1 = 8-5(1) = 8-5=3$$

$$s_2 = 8-5(2) = 8-10=-2$$

$$s_3 = 8-5(3) = 8-15=-7$$

$$s_4 = 8-5(4) = 8-20=-12$$

$$d=-5$$

3. $\{s_n\} = \{4n+3\}$

$$s_1 = 4(1)+3=7$$

$$s_2 = 4(2)+3=8+3=11$$

$$s_3 = 4(3)+3=12+3=15$$

$$s_4 = 4(4)+3=16+3=19$$

$$d=4$$

4. $\{s_n\} = \{\frac{1}{3}n + \frac{1}{2}\}$

$$d=\frac{1}{3}$$

$$s_1 = \frac{1}{3}(1) + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{6} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$$

$$s_2 = \frac{1}{3}(2) + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{6} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{7}{6}$$

$$s_3 = \frac{1}{3}(3) + \frac{1}{2} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$s_4 = \frac{1}{3}(4) + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{3} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{8}{6} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{11}{6}$$

Find the n th term of the arithmetic sequence $\{a_n\}$ whose initial term a_1 and common difference d are given. What is the fifty-first term?

5. $a_1=8; d=-4$

$$a_n = 8 + (n-1)(-4)$$

$$= 8 - 4n + 4$$

$$= -4n + 12$$

$$a_{51} = -4(51) + 12$$

$$= -204 + 12$$

$$= -192$$

6. $a_1=-3; d=5$

$$a_n = -3 + (n-1)5$$

$$= -3 + 5n - 5$$

$$= 5n - 8$$

$$a_{51} = 255 - 8$$

$$= 247$$

Find the indicated term in the arithmetic sequence.

7. 100th term of 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, ...

$$\uparrow$$

 a_1

$d=3$

$$a_n = a_1 + (n-1)d$$

$$= 4 + (n-1)3$$

$$= 4 + 3n - 3$$

$$= 3n + 1$$

$$a_{100} = 3(100) + 1$$

$$= 300 + 1$$

$$= 301$$

8. 57th term of -5, -3, -1, 1, 3, ...

$$\uparrow$$

 a_1

$d=2$

$$a_n = a_1 + (n-1)d$$

$$= -5 + (n-1)(2)$$

$$= -5 + 2n - 2$$

$$= 2n - 7$$

$$a_{57} = 2(57) - 7$$

$$= 114 - 7$$

$$= 107$$

Find each sum.

9. $1, 6, 11, 16, 21, \dots, 5n-4$

$$\sum_{k=1}^n 5n-4 = \frac{n}{2}(1+5n-4)$$

$$= \frac{n}{2}(5n-3)$$

10. $7, 13, 19, 25, 31, \dots, 301$

$$a_n = 7 + (n-1)6$$

$$a_n = 7 + 6n - 6$$

$$a_n = 6n + 1$$

$$6n+1=301$$

$$\frac{6n}{6} = \frac{300}{6}$$

$$n = 50$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{50} 6n+1 = \frac{50}{2}(7+301)$$

$$= 25(308)$$

$$= 7700$$

11. Find the first term and the common difference of the arithmetic sequence described. Give the recursive formula for the sequence. Find a formula for the nth term.

12th term is 4; 18th term is 28

- What is the first term of the sequence? -40
- What is the common difference? 4
- What is the recursive formula?
- What is the formula for the nth term of the sequence?

$$c) a_1 = -40$$

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 4$$

$$d) a_n = -40 + (n-1)4$$

$$= -40 + 4n - 4$$

$$= 4n - 44$$

$$a_{12} = a_1 + (12-1)d = 4$$

$$a_{18} = a_1 + (18-1)d = 28$$

$$a_1 + 11d = 4$$

$$a_1 + 17d = 28$$

$$\frac{-6d}{-6} = \frac{-24}{-6}$$

$$d = 4$$

$$a_1 + 11(4) = 4$$

$$a_1 + 44 = 4$$

$$a_1 = -40$$

The Sartor Theatre has 25 seats in the first row and 50 rows in all. Each successive row contains one additional seat. How many seats are there in the theater?

$$a_1 = 25$$

$$d = 1$$

$$a_n = a_1 + (n-1)d$$

$$= 25 + (n-1)1$$

$$= 25 + n - 1$$

$$= n + 24$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{50} k+24 = \frac{n}{2}(a_1 + a_n)$$

$$= \frac{50}{2}(25 + 74)$$

$$= 25(99)$$

$$= 2475$$