

5.2L Solving Quadratic Equations Using the Quadratic Formula to Find Real Solutions

1. Describe a situation where you would HAVE to use the quadratic formula to solve a quadratic equation if you did not want to graph it.

If the quadratic equation does not factor, the roots are either irrational or imaginary.

#2-7: Determine a, b, and c and then solve using the quadratic formula. Remember to show ALL work.

2. $2x^2 - 5x - 3 = 0$

a: 2 b: -5 c: -3

$$x = \frac{5 \pm \sqrt{25 - 4(2)(-3)}}{2(2)}$$

$$x = \frac{5 \pm \sqrt{49}}{4} \quad \left/ \begin{array}{l} \frac{5+7}{4} \\ \frac{5-7}{4} \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} x = 3 \\ \text{or} \\ x = -\frac{1}{2} \end{array}$$

Could you have solved by factoring? Explain.

Yes! $(2x+1)(x-3) = 0$ (49 is a perfect square #)
 $x = -\frac{1}{2}$ or $x = 3$

3. $x^2 - 7x + 9 = 0$

a: 1 b: -7 c: 9

$$x = \frac{7 \pm \sqrt{(-7)^2 - 4(1)(9)}}{2(1)}$$

$$x = \frac{7 \pm \sqrt{13}}{2}$$

Could you have solved by factoring? Explain:

No; $b^2 - 4ac$ is not a perfect square
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4. $5x^2 + 3x = 1$

a: 5 b: 3 c: -1

$$x = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{(3)^2 - 4(5)(-1)}}{2(5)}$$

$$x = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{29}}{10}$$

Could you have solved by factoring? Explain.

No; 29 is not a perfect square #

5. $x^2 + x - 1 = 0$

a: 1 b: 1 c: -1

$$x = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{(1)^2 - 4(1)(-1)}}{2(1)}$$

$$x = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

Could you have solved by factoring? Explain:

No; 5 is not a perfect square #

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#2 – 7 (continued): Determine a, b, and c and then solve using the quadratic formula. Remember to show ALL work.

6. $9x^2 + 6x - 1 = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} a: 9 \quad b: 6 \quad c: -1 \\ x = \frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{(6)^2 - 4(9)(-1)}}{2(9)} \\ x = \frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{72}}{18} = \frac{-6 \pm 6\sqrt{2}}{18} \\ \boxed{x = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{2}}{3}} \end{aligned}$$

7. $2x^2 + 3x + 2 = 3$

$$\begin{aligned} a: 2 \quad b: 3 \quad c: -1 \\ x = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{(3)^2 - 4(2)(-1)}}{2(2)} \\ \boxed{x = \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{17}}{4}} \end{aligned}$$

8. A cliff diver jumps up and away from the cliff as he jumps. His path can be modeled by the equation $h(t) = -16t^2 + 12t + 25$, where h is the height, in feet, of the diver at a specific time, t , in seconds. How long will it take for the diver to reach the water below? Solve using the quadratic formula. Round answers to the nearest hundredth. (Hint: When the diver hits the water, he is at a height of 0 ft.)

$$\begin{aligned} a = -16 \quad b = 12 \quad c = 25 \\ x = \frac{-12 \pm \sqrt{(12)^2 - 4(-16)(25)}}{2(-16)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x = \frac{-12 \pm \sqrt{1744}}{-32} \quad x \approx -0.93 \text{ so } 1.68 \text{ seconds} \\ x \approx 1.68 \end{aligned}$$



9. The volcanic cinder cone Puu Puai in Hawaii was formed in 1959 when a massive "lava fountain" erupted at Kilauea Iki Crater, shooting lava hundreds of feet into the air. When the eruption was most intense, the height h (in feet) of the lava t seconds after being ejected from the ground could be modeled by $h(t) = -16t^2 + 352t$. Solve using any method you have learned. Round your answers to the nearest hundredth.

- a) How long was the lava in the air?

$$\begin{aligned} -16t^2 + 352t &= 0 \\ -16t(t - 22) &= 0 \\ t &= 0 \quad t = 22 \text{ secs} \end{aligned}$$



- b) How long did it take the lava to reach its maximum height of 1936 feet?

$$\begin{aligned} -16t^2 + 352t &= 1936 \\ -16t^2 + 352t - 1936 &= 0 \\ a = -16 \quad b = 352 \quad c = -1936 \quad t = \frac{-352 \pm \sqrt{0}}{-32} \\ \boxed{t = 11 \text{ seconds}} \end{aligned}$$

Section 5.2L