

Exponential/Logarithmic Functions and Their Graphs

Name KEY Period

Pre-Calculus Notes

The standard form of an exponential function is $f(x) = a \cdot b^x$ where $a \neq 0$ and $b > 0; b \neq 1$.
 (Note: b can be any #, e.g., 2, 3, ..., e)

Logarithmic functions have a standard form $f(x) = \log_b x$ or $\ln x$ where $x > 0$ and $b > 0; b \neq 1$.

Exponential and logarithmic functions are inverses of one another.

	Equation	Description
Vertical Translation (shift up/down)	$y = f(x) + c$ OR $y = f(x) - c$	The function, $f(x)$, is shifted <u>up</u> (+) or <u>down</u> (-) by "c" units.
Horizontal Translation (shift left/right)	$y = f(x + c)$ OR $y = f(x - c)$	The function, $f(x)$, is shifted <u>left</u> (+) or <u>right</u> (-) by "c" units.
Reflection	$y = -f(x)$ OR $y = f(-x)$	The function, $f(x)$, is reflected over the <u>X-</u> axis ($-f(x)$) or the <u>y-</u> axis ($f(-x)$).
Vertical Stretch or Shrink	$y = cf(x)$	If $c > 1$; $f(x)$ <u>stretched</u> vertically If $0 < c < 1$; $f(x)$ <u>shrunk</u> vertically
Horizontal Stretch or Shrink	$y = f(cx)$	If $c > 1$; $f(x)$ <u>shrunk</u> horizontally If $0 < c < 1$; $f(x)$ <u>stretched</u> horizontally

Example 1: Given $f(x) = e^x$, describe all of the transformations that will occur between $f(x)$ and $g(x)$.

a) $g(x) = -e^x$

Reflect over
X-axis

b) $g(x) = e^{-2x}$

Reflect over y-axis
Horizontal shrink by factor of 2

c) $g(x) = \frac{1}{4}e^{x+3}$

Vertical shrink by factor of 4
Left 3

d) $g(x) = -3e^{x-1} + 5$

Reflect over X-axis
Vertical stretch by factor of 3
Right 1
up 5

Example 2: Given $f(x) = \log x$, describe all of the transformations that will occur between $f(x)$ and $g(x)$.

a) $g(x) = \log 5x$

Horizontal shrink by
factor of 5

b) $g(x) = -\frac{1}{2}\log x$

Reflect over X-axis
Vertical shrink by factor of 2

c) $g(x) = \log(-x) - 4$

Reflect over y-axis
Down 4

d) $g(x) = \log(-5x + 2)$

Reflect over y-axis
Horizontal shrink by factor of 5
Left 2

Example 3: Given $f(x) = 2^x$, write the equation for the transformed function, $g(x)$.

a) Transform $f(x)$ by shifting up 10 units and reflecting over the x-axis.

$$g(x) = -2^x + 10$$

b) Transform $f(x)$ by shifting left 8 units, horizontally stretching by a factor of 3 and reflecting over the y-axis.

$$g(x) = 2^{-\frac{1}{3}x + 8}$$

Given the following $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ equations, determine all transformations that occur between the two.

1. $f(x) = 3^x$

a) $g(x) = -(3^x)$

Reflect over x-axis

b) $g(x) = 3^{2x}$

Horizontal shrink
by 2

2. $f(x) = \log_2 x$

a) $g(x) = \log_2(-x - 4)$

Reflect over y-axis
Right 4

b) $g(x) = \frac{1}{2} \log_2 x + 6$

Vertical shrink by 2
up 6

3. $f(x) = e^x$

a) $g(x) = e^{-0.5x} - 1$

Reflect over y-axis
Horizontal stretch by 2
Down 1

b) $g(x) = -3e^{x+8}$

Reflect over x-axis
Vertical stretch by 3
Left 8

4. $f(x) = \ln x$

a) $-\ln\left(\frac{1}{5}x + 2\right) - 7$

Reflect over x-axis
Horizontal stretch by 5
Left 2
Down 7

b) $-4\ln(-x + 2)$

Reflect y-axis
Vertical stretch by 4
Reflect x-axis
Left 2

5. $f(x) = 4^x$

a) $g(x) = -2(4^{x-1})$

Reflect over x-axis
Vertical stretch by 2
Right 1

b) $g(x) = 4^{-0.25x} + 5$

Reflect over y-axis
Horizontal stretch by 4
up 5

6. Write an equation for the function that is described by the given characteristics.

a) The shape of $f(x) = e^x$, but moved two units to the right and eight units down.

$$g(x) = e^{x-2} - 8$$

b) The shape of $f(x) = 4^x$, but reflected over the x-axis and vertically stretched by a factor of 6.

$$g(x) = -6(4^x)$$

c) The shape of $f(x) = \log x$, but moved 5 units up and reflected about the y-axis.

$$g(x) = \log(-x) + 5$$

d) The shape of $f(x) = \log_3 x$, but horizontally shrunk by a factor of 2 and shifted up 3 units.

$$g(x) = \log_3(2x) + 3$$

e) The shape of $f(x) = 3^x$, but stretched vertically by a factor of 2, stretched horizontally by a factor of 2, shifted down 2 units, and left 2 units.

$$g(x) = 2(3^{1/2 x + 2}) - 2$$