

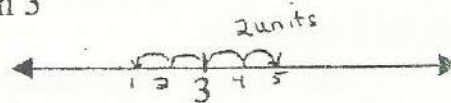
Absolute Value Equations

Absolute Value as a Distance:

 $|x - 3|$ means the distance from 3

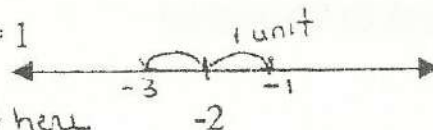
$|x - 3| = 2$

↑ start here
 ↖ 2 units

Answer: $x = 1$ or $x = 5$ $|x + 2| = 1$ means $|x - (-2)| = 1$

↑ one unit

↑ start here

Answer: $x = -3$ or $x = -1$

Draw the number line and solve the absolute value equation:

1. $|x - 3| = 4$



Answer: _____

2. $|x - 1| = 2$



Answer: _____

3. $|x - 6| = 2$



Answer: _____

4. $|x + 5| = 1$



Answer: _____

5. $|x + 3| = 3$



Answer: _____

6. $|x + 2| = 4$



Answer: _____

Solve Algebraically:

1. Get absolute value by itself
2. Set up 2 equations
 - *one without the absolute values
 - *the other without absolute values and change the sign of the right side.
3. Check in the original

Example 1:

$$\begin{array}{l} |x-3| = 4 \\ x-3 = 4 \quad \text{or} \quad x-3 = -4 \\ \underline{+3 \quad +3} \quad \underline{+3 \quad +3} \\ x = 7 \quad \quad \quad x = -1 \end{array}$$

Check:

$$\begin{array}{l} |x-3| = 4 \\ |7-3| = 4 \\ |4| = 4 \checkmark \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} |x-3| = 4 \\ |-1-3| = 4 \\ |-4| = 4 \checkmark \end{array}$$

Answer: $x = 7$ or $x = -1$

Example 2:

$$\begin{array}{l} |x+2| = 5 \\ x+2 = 5 \quad \text{or} \quad x+2 = -5 \\ \underline{-2 \quad -2} \quad \underline{-2 \quad -2} \\ x = 3 \quad \quad \quad x = -7 \end{array}$$

Check:

$$\begin{array}{l} |x+2| = 5 \\ |3+2| = 5 \\ |5| = 5 \checkmark \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} |x+2| = 5 \\ |-7+2| = 5 \\ |-5| = 5 \checkmark \end{array}$$

Answer: $x = 3$ or $x = -7$

Try:

1. $|x-1| = 2$

2. $|x+5| = 1$

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

4. $|-2x+5| = 1$

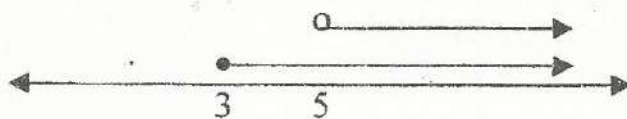
Find the solution:

AND – WHERE THERE IS 2 LINES (INTERSECTION)

OR – AT LEAST ONE LINE (UNION)

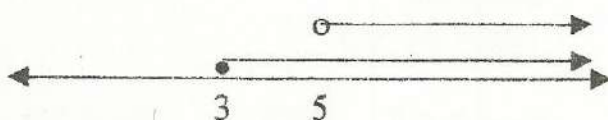
1. AND

Answer: _____



2. OR

Answer: _____



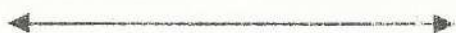
3. AND

Answer: _____



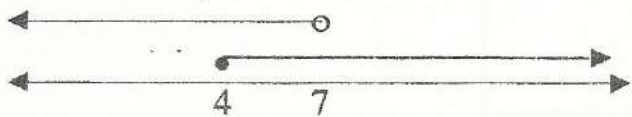
4. OR

Answer: _____



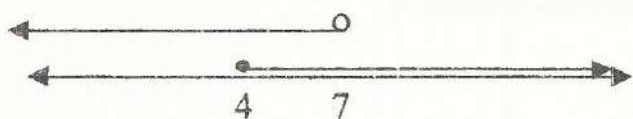
5. AND

Answer: _____



6. OR

Answer: _____



$|x| > \#$ means OR
 $|x| < \#$ means AND

1. Get the Absolute Value by itself
2. Make TWO inequalities with the correct word OR/AND
 - *first inequality – just take off the absolute value
 - *second inequality – take off the absolute value, flip $<$ symbol, and change signs on the right side

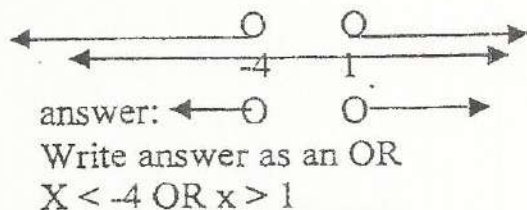
Example:

$$|2x + 3| > 5$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} & \downarrow & \downarrow \downarrow \\ 2x + 3 > 5 & \text{OR} & 2x + 3 < -5 \\ \hline -3 & & -3 \quad -3 \\ \hline 2x > 2 & & 2x < -8 \\ \hline x > 1 & & x < -4 \end{array}$$

$$x > 1 \quad \text{OR} \quad x < -4$$

OR means 1 or more lines



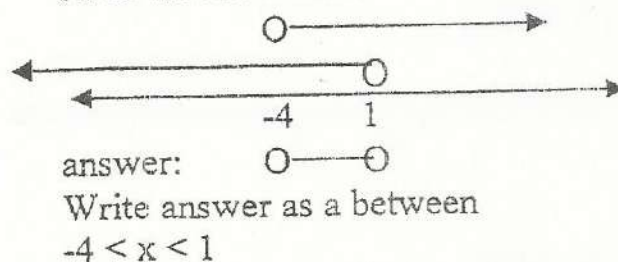
Example

$$|2x + 3| < 5$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} & \downarrow & \downarrow \downarrow \\ 2x + 3 < 5 & \text{AND} & 2x + 3 > -5 \\ \hline -3 & & -3 \quad -3 \\ \hline 2x < 2 & & 2x > -8 \\ \hline x < 1 & & x > -4 \end{array}$$

$$x < 1 \quad \text{AND} \quad x > -4$$

AND means 2 lines



Be careful to watch the following:

$|x| = \text{NEGATIVE}$
 $|x| < \text{NEGATIVE}$
 $|x| > \text{NEGATIVE}$

NO SOLUTION
 NO SOLUTION
 INFINITE SOLUTIONS