

Reteaching with Practice

For use with pages 411–417

GOAL

Use linear combinations to solve a system of linear equations and model a real-life problem using a system of linear equations

VOCABULARY

A **linear combination** of two equations is an equation obtained by adding one of the equations (or a multiple of one of the equations) to the other equation.

EXAMPLE 1**Using Multiplication First**

Solve the linear system. $4x - 3y = 11$ Equation 1
 $3x + 2y = -13$ Equation 2

SOLUTION

The equations are arranged with like terms in columns. You can get the coefficients of y to be opposites by multiplying the first equation by 2 and the second equation by 3.

$$\begin{array}{rclcl}
 4x - 3y = 11 & \text{Multiply by 2.} & 8x - 6y = 22 & & \\
 3x + 2y = -13 & \text{Multiply by 3.} & 9x + 6y = -39 & & \\
 & & 17x = -17 & \text{Add the equations.} & \\
 & & x = -1 & \text{Solve for } x. &
 \end{array}$$

Substitute -1 for x in the second equation and solve for y .

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 3x + 2y = -13 & \text{Write Equation 2.} & \\
 3(-1) + 2y = -13 & \text{Substitute } -1 \text{ for } x. & \\
 -3 + 2y = -13 & \text{Simplify.} & \\
 y = -5 & \text{Solve for } y. &
 \end{array}$$

The solution is $(-1, -5)$.

Exercises for Example 1

Use linear combinations to solve the system of linear equations.

- $x + 2y = 5$
 $3x - 2y = 7$
- $x + y = 1$
 $2x - 3y = 12$
- $x - y = -4$
 $x + 2y = 5$

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EXAMPLE 2 Writing and Using a Linear System

A pharmacy mailed 300 advertisements, smaller ads requiring \$.33 postage and larger ads requiring \$.55 postage. If the total cost of postage was \$121, find the number of advertisements mailed at each rate.

SOLUTION

Verbal Model

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \boxed{\text{Number of smaller ads}} + \boxed{\text{Number of larger ads}} = \boxed{\text{Total number of ads}} \\
 \boxed{\text{Postage for smaller ads}} \cdot \boxed{\text{Number of smaller ads}} + \boxed{\text{Postage for larger ads}} \cdot \boxed{\text{Number of larger ads}} = \boxed{\text{Total cost of postage}}
 \end{array}$$

Labels

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{Number of smaller ads} = x & (\text{ads}) \\
 \text{Number of larger ads} = y & (\text{ads}) \\
 \text{Total number of ads} = 300 & (\text{ads}) \\
 \text{Postage for smaller ads} = 0.33 & (\text{dollars per ad}) \\
 \text{Postage for larger ads} = 0.55 & (\text{dollars per ad}) \\
 \text{Total cost of postage} = 121 & (\text{dollars})
 \end{array}$$

Algebraic Model

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 x + y = 300 & \text{Equation 1 (ads)} \\
 0.33x + 0.55y = 121 & \text{Equation 2 (dollars)}
 \end{array}$$

Use linear combinations to solve for y .

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 -0.33x - 0.33y = -99 & \text{Multiply Equation 1 by } -0.33. \\
 \underline{0.33x + 0.55y = 121} & \text{Write Equation 2.} \\
 0.22y = 22 & \text{Add the equations.} \\
 y = 100 & \text{Solve for } y.
 \end{array}$$

Substitute 100 for y in Equation 1 and solve for x .

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 x + y = 300 & \text{Write Equation 1.} \\
 x + 100 = 300 & \text{Substitute 100 for } y. \\
 x = 200 & \text{Solve for } x.
 \end{array}$$

The solution is (200, 100). The pharmacy mailed 200 smaller ads and 100 larger ads.

Exercises for Example 2

- Rework Example 2 if the total cost of postage was \$154.
- Rework Example 2 if the pharmacy mailed 320 advertisements.