

Challenge: Skills and Applications

For use with pages 426–431

In Exercises 1–3, use the linear system.

$$\frac{1}{2}x - \frac{3}{4}y = 5$$

$$kx - \frac{3}{5}y = 2$$

1. For what values of k does the system have no solution?
2. For what values of k does the system have infinitely many solutions?
3. For what values of k does the system have exactly one solution?

In Exercises 4–5, suppose a , b , and k are nonzero numbers. Suppose you solve the system by linear combinations.

$$ax + by = 5$$

$$kax + kby = 10$$

4. Does the number of solutions the system has depend on the values of a and b ? Does it depend on the value of k ?
5. Describe the number of solutions in each possible case.

In Exercises 6–7, suppose you solve the system by multiplying the first equation by d and the second equation by b and then subtracting.

$$ax + by = p$$

$$cx + dy = q$$

6. What is the coefficient of x in the resulting equation?
7. State a relationship among the numbers a , b , c , and d that guarantees that the system does *not* have exactly one solution.