


13.4

Personal Math Trainer 

13.4 Solving Absolute Value Inequalities - Class &
Homework



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1

Solve the absolute value inequality $2|x - 7| \geq 6$ algebraically.
Select the number line showing the solution.

Divide both sides by 2.

$$\frac{2|x - 7|}{2} \geq \frac{6}{2} \quad \text{or}$$

Rewrite as two inequalities.

$$|x - 7| \geq 3$$

Negative

Positive

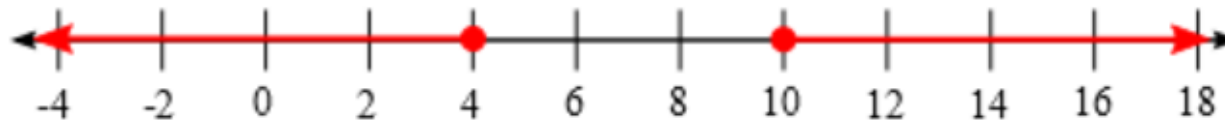
$$\begin{array}{l}
 -1(x - 7) \geq 3 \quad \text{or} \quad x - 7 \geq 3 \\
 -x + 7 \geq 3 \quad \quad \quad \frac{\quad +7 \quad +7}{\quad \quad \quad} \\
 \frac{-x}{-1} \geq \frac{-4}{-1} \\
 x \leq 4
 \end{array}$$

Flip the inequality sign when multiplying or dividing by a negative

Combination Types

<i>and</i>	<i>or</i>
<	>
≤	≥

< or > → ○
≤ or ≥ → ●



2

Solve the absolute value inequality $|2x - 8| < 6$ algebraically.
Select the number line showing the solution.

$$|2x - 8| < 6$$

Negative

Positive

$$-(2x - 8) < 6 \text{ and } 2x - 8 < 6$$

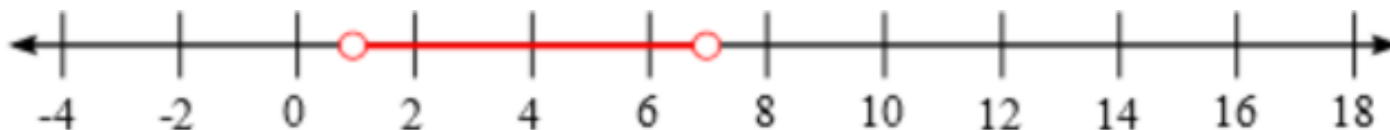
$$\begin{array}{r} -2x + 8 < 6 \\ -8 \quad -8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -2x < -2 \\ -2 \quad -2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2x - 8 < 6 \\ +8 \quad +8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2x < 14 \\ 2 \quad 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$x > 1 \text{ and } x < 7$$



3 Solve the absolute value inequality algebraically. Select the correct graph of the solution.

Order of operation backward

$$2|x - \frac{7}{2}| + 2 > 6$$

$$2|x - \frac{7}{2}| + 2 > 6$$

~~-2~~ ~~-2~~

$$2|x - \frac{7}{2}| > \frac{4}{2}$$

$$|x - \frac{7}{2}| > 2$$

Negative

Positive

$$x - \frac{7}{2} < -2$$

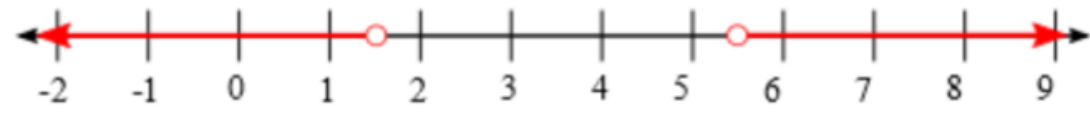
~~+7/2~~ ~~+7/2~~

$$x < \frac{3}{2}$$

$$x - \frac{7}{2} > 2$$

~~+7/2~~ ~~+7/2~~

$$x > \frac{11}{2}$$



A	S
M	D

4

Solve the absolute value inequality $|2x + 1| - 1 < 4$ algebraically.
Select the correct solution.

Order of operation backward

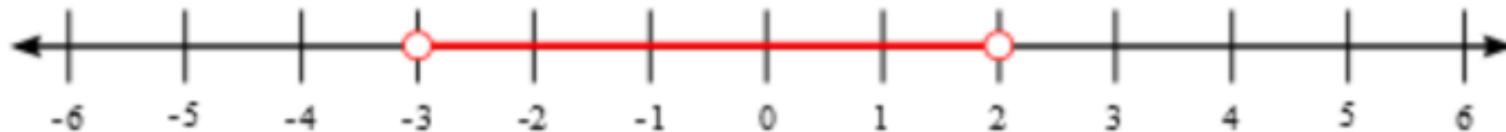
$$\begin{array}{r} |2x + 1| - 1 < 4 \\ \hline |2x + 1| < 5 \end{array}$$

Negative Positive

$$\begin{array}{r} 2x + 1 > -5 \\ \hline 2x > -6 \\ \hline x > -3 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2x + 1 < 5 \\ \hline 2x < 4 \\ \hline x < 2 \end{array}$$

A	S
M	D



5

Solve the absolute value inequality $2|x + 4| + 4 \geq 10$ algebraically.
Select the number line showing the correct answer.

Order of operation backward

$$2|x + 4| + \cancel{4} \geq \frac{10}{\cancel{-4}}$$

$$\frac{2|x + 4|}{2} \geq \frac{6}{2}$$

$$|x + 4| \geq 3$$

Negative (Flip)

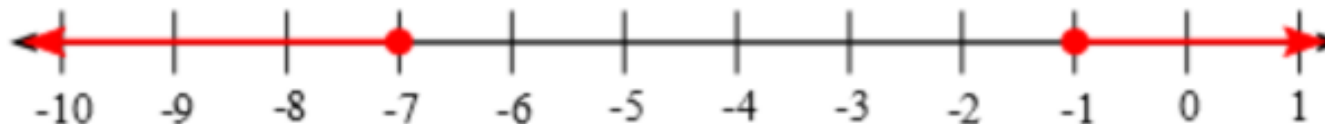
$$x + \cancel{4} \leq \cancel{-3}$$

$$x \leq -7$$

Positive

$$x + \cancel{4} \geq \cancel{3}$$

$$x \geq -1$$



A	S
M	D

6

Solve the absolute value inequality algebraically.
Select the number line showing the correct solution.

$$|x + 11| - 11 \leq -8$$

$$|x + 11| - 11 \leq -8$$

$$|x + 11| \leq 3 \quad \text{Add 11 to both sides.}$$

Rewrite as two inequalities.

Negative (Flip symbol)

$$x + 11 \geq -3$$

and

Positive

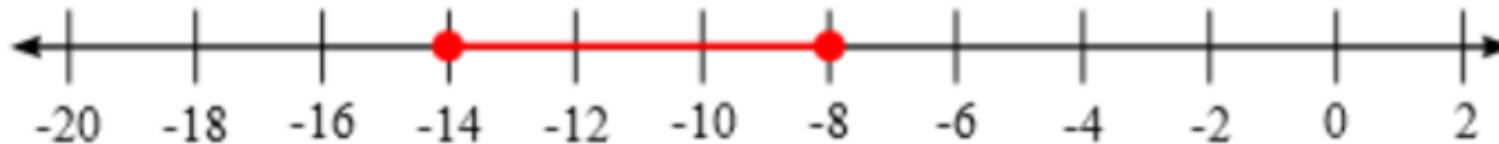
$$x + 11 \leq 3$$

Subtract 11 from both sides of both inequalities.

$$x \geq -14$$

and

$$x \leq -8$$



7

Solve the absolute value inequality $5|x - 3| - 2 < 13$ algebraically.
Select the number line below that shows the correct solution.

$$-5|x - 3| - 2 < 13$$

$$-5|x - 3| < 15 \quad \text{Add 2 to both sides.}$$

$$|x - 3| > -3 \quad \text{Divide both sides by } -5.$$

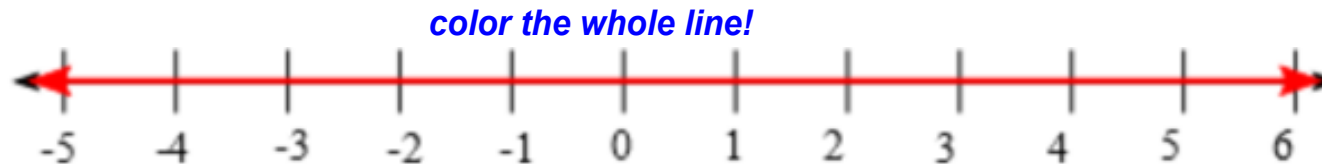
Absolute value is always
Positive*

>

Negative (3)

Always True, so all real numbers.

*The left-hand side is always positive or zero, so the inequality is always true.



8

Solve the absolute value inequality $9|x + 4| + 14 < 5$ algebraically.
Select the number line showing the solution.

$$9|x + 4| + 14 < 5$$

$$9|x + 4| < -9 \quad \text{Subtract 14 from both sides.}$$

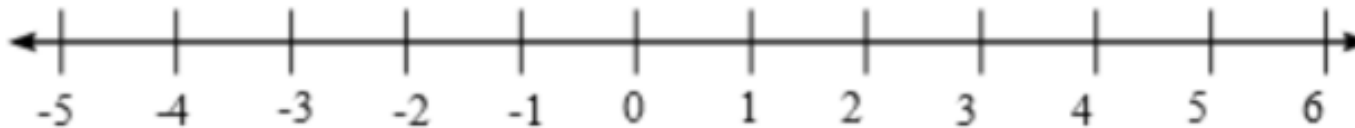
$$|x + 4| < -1 \quad \text{Divide both sides by 9.}$$

Absolute value is always
Positive* $<$ Negative (1)

Always False, so No Solutions.

*The left-hand side of the inequality is always positive or zero, so it can never be less than 1.

No color, empty line!



9

Determine whether each of the integers from -5 to 5 is a solution of the inequality $|x - 1| - 4 \leq -1$.

Part 1 out of 2

Drag and drop the integers below into the correct categories to show whether each of the integers is a solution of the inequality.

Solution	Not a Solution
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">-2</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">-1</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">0</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">1</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">2</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">3</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">4</div> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">-5</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">-4</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">-3</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">5</div>

$$\begin{aligned} |x - 1| - 4 &\leq -1 \\ +4 \quad +4 & \\ \hline |x - 1| &\leq 3 \end{aligned}$$

Negative(Flip)

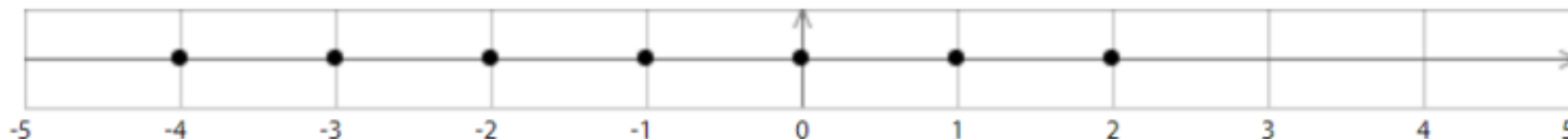
$$\begin{aligned} X - 1 &\geq -3 \\ +1 \quad +1 & \\ \hline x &\geq -2 \end{aligned}$$

Positive

$$\begin{aligned} X - 1 &\leq 3 \\ +1 \quad +1 & \\ \hline x &\leq 4 \end{aligned}$$

Part 2 out of 2

Plot the solutions on the number line.



10 Determine whether each of the integers from -5 to 5 is a solution of the inequality $|x - 1| + 3 \geq 5$.

Part 1 out of 2

Drag and drop the integers below into the correct categories to show whether each of the integers is a solution of the inequality.

Solution				Not a Solution
4	-5	-4	-1	1
-3	3	-2	5	2
				0

$$\begin{array}{r} |x - 1| + 3 \geq 5 \\ \underline{-3 \quad -3} \\ |x - 1| \geq 2 \end{array}$$

Negative (Flip)

$$\begin{array}{r} x - 1 \leq -2 \\ \underline{+1 \quad +1} \\ x \leq -1 \end{array}$$

Positive

$$\begin{array}{r} x - 1 \geq 2 \\ \underline{+1 \quad +1} \\ x \geq 3 \end{array}$$

Part 2 out of 2

Plot the solutions on the number line.

