Study Guide and Intervention 2-5

Solving Equations Involving Absolute Value

Absolute Value Expressions Expressions with absolute values define an upper and lower range in which a value must lie. Expressions involving absolute value can be evaluated using the given value for the variable.

Example Evaluate |t-5|-7 if t=3.

$$|t-5|-7 = |3-5|-7$$

= $|-2|-7$

Replace t with 3.

$$= |-2| - 7$$
$$= 2 - 7$$

3 - 5 = -2|-2| = 2

$$= -5$$

Simplify.

Exercises

Evaluate each expression if r = -2, n = -3, and t = 3.

1.
$$|8 - t| + 3$$

2.
$$|t-3|-7$$

$$3.5 + |3 - n|$$

4.
$$|r + n| - 7$$

5.
$$|n-t|+4$$

6.
$$-|r+n+t|$$

Evaluate each expression if n = 2, q = -1.5, r = -3, v = -8, w = 4.5, and x = 4.

7.
$$|2q + r|$$

8.
$$10 - |2n + v|$$

9.
$$|3x - 2w| - q$$

10.
$$v - |3n + x|$$

11.
$$1 + |5q - w|$$

12.
$$2|3r-v|$$

13.
$$|-2x + 5n| + (n - x)$$
 14. $4w - |2r + v|$

14.
$$4w - |2r + v|$$

15.
$$3|w-n|-5|q-r|$$

Study Guide and Intervention (continued) 2-5

Solving Equations Involving Absolute Value

Absolute Value Equations When solving equations that involve absolute value, there are two cases to consider.

Case 1: The value inside the absolute value symbols is positive.

Case 2: The value inside the absolute value symbols is negative.

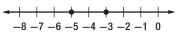
Example 1 Solve |x + 4| = 1. Then graph the solution set.

Write |x + 4| = 1 as x + 4 = 1 or x + 4 = -1.

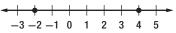
$$\begin{array}{r}
 x + 4 &= -1 \\
 x + 4 - 4 &= -1 - 4 \\
 x &= -5
 \end{array}$$

The solution set is $\{-5, -3\}$.

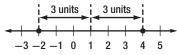
The graph is shown below.



Example 2 Write an equation involving absolute value for the graph.



Find the point that is the same distance from -2 as it is from 4.



The distance from 1 to -2 is 3 units. The distance from 1 to 4 is 3 units.

So,
$$|x - 1| = 3$$
.

Exercises

Solve each equation. Then graph the solution set.

$$2. |x - 4| = 4$$

$$0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8$$

5.
$$|w-2| = 5$$

$$-8-6-4-2 \ 0 \ 2 \ 4 \ 6 \ 8$$

$$9. |p - 0.2| = 0.5$$

$$-0.8 \quad -0.4 \quad 0 \quad 0.4 \quad 0.8$$

10.
$$|d - 100| = 50$$

50 100 150 200

$$11. |2x - 1| = 11$$

$$-6 - 4 - 2 \ 0 \ 2 \ 4 \ 6 \ 8 \ 10$$

12.
$$\left| 3x + \frac{1}{2} \right| = 6$$

Write an equation involving absolute value for each graph.

Lesson 2-5