

# 11.1 Solving Linear Systems by Graphing



Resource  
Locker

**Essential Question:** How can you find the solution of a system of linear equations by graphing?

## Explore Types of Systems of Linear Equations

A **system of linear equations**, also called a *linear system*, consists of two or more linear equations that have the same variables. A **solution of a system of linear equations** with two variables is any ordered pair that satisfies all of the equations in the system.

- (A) Describe the relationship between the two lines in Graph A.

They intersect @  
1 place.

- (B) What do you know about every point on the graph on a linear equation?

Every point (ordered pair) is  
a solution to a linear eqn.

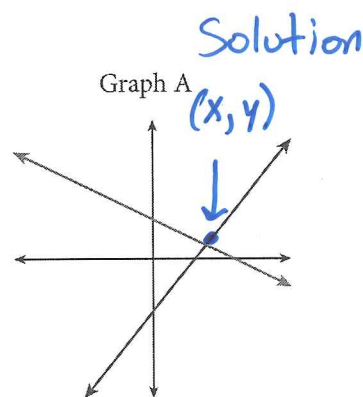
- (C) How many solutions does a system of two equations have if the graphs of the two equations intersect at exactly one point?

1

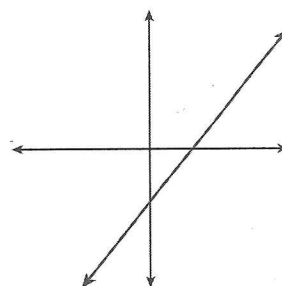
- (D) Describe the relationship between the two lines that coincide in Graph B.

- (E) How many solutions does a system of two equations have if the graphs of the two equations intersect at infinitely many points?

$\infty$  many solutions.



one lin. eqn.  
on top of the other



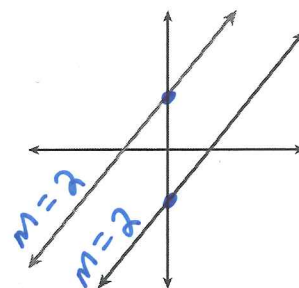
- F Describe the relationship between the two lines in Graph C.

Parallel lines

- G How many solutions does a system of two equations have if the graphs of the two equations do not intersect?

None

Graph C



### Reflect

1. **Discussion** Explain why the solution of a system of two equations is represented by any point where the two graphs intersect.

## Explain 1 Solving Consistent, Independent Linear Systems by Graphing

A **consistent system** is a system with at least one solution. Consistent systems can be either independent or dependent.

An **independent system** has exactly one solution. The graph of an independent system consists of two lines that intersect at exactly one point. A **dependent system** has infinitely many solutions. The graph of a dependent system consists of two coincident lines, or the same line.

A system that has no solution is an **inconsistent system**.

**Example 1** Solve the system of linear equations by graphing. Check your answer.

A 
$$\begin{cases} 2x + y = 6 \\ -x + y = 3 \end{cases}$$

Find the intercepts for each equation, plus a third point for a check. Then graph.

$$2x + y = 6$$

$$-x + y = 3$$

x-intercept: 3

x-intercept: -3

y-intercept: 6

y-intercept: 3

third point: (-1, 8)    third point: (3, 6)

The two lines appear to intersect at (1, 4). Check.

$$2x + y = 6$$

$$-x + y = 3$$

$$2(1) + 4 \stackrel{?}{=} 6$$

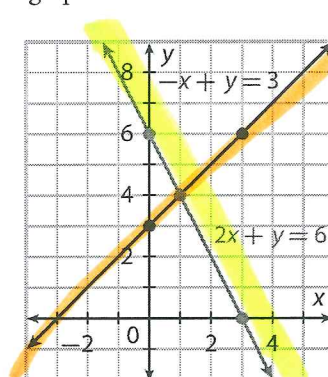
$$-(1) + 4 \stackrel{?}{=} 3$$

$$6 = 6$$

$$3 = 3$$

The point satisfies both equations, so the solution is (1, 4).

Solution



B  $\begin{cases} y = 2x - 2 \\ 3y + 6x = 18 \end{cases}$

Find the intercepts for each equation, plus a third point for a check. Then graph.

$y = 2x - 2$

x-intercept:

y-intercept:

third point:  $(3, \text{  })$

$3y + 6x = 18$

x-intercept:

y-intercept:

third point:  $(1, \text{  })$

The two lines appear to intersect at . Check.

$y = 2x - 2$

$\stackrel{?}{=} 2(\text{  }) - 2$

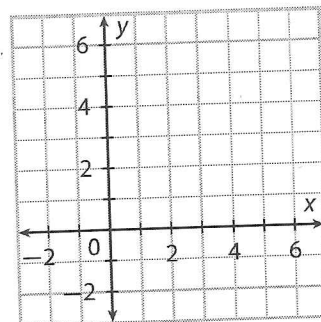
$= \text{  }$

$y + 2x = 6$

$+ 2(\text{  }) \stackrel{?}{=} 6$

$= 6$

The point satisfies both equations, so the solution is .



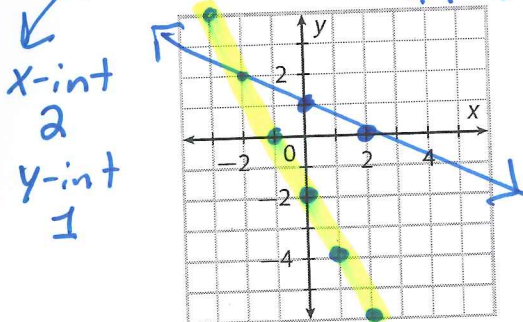
### Reflect

2. How do you know that the systems of equations are consistent? How do you know that they are independent?

### Your Turn

Solve the system of linear equations by graphing. Check your answer.

3.  $\begin{cases} y = -2x - 2 \\ x + 2y = 2 \end{cases}$   $\rightarrow b = -2$   
 $m = \frac{-2}{+1} \rightarrow$



Solution to the system  
 $(-2, 2)$

4.  $\begin{cases} y = 2x + 8 \\ -x + y = 6 \end{cases}$   $\rightarrow m = \frac{+2}{+1}$   $b = 8$  ... (start)  
 $-1x + y = 6$

