

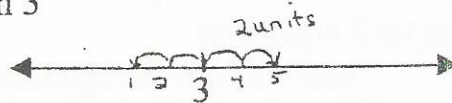
## Absolute Value Equations

Absolute Value as a Distance:

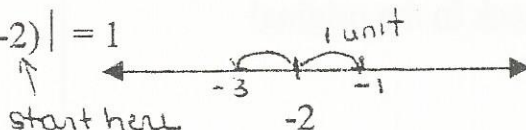
 $|x - 3|$  means the distance from 3

$|x - 3| = 2$

↑      ↖ 2 units  
start here

Answer:  $x = 1$  or  $x = 5$  $|x + 2| = 1$  means  $|x - (-2)| = 1$ 

↖ one unit      ↑  
start here

Answer:  $x = -3$  or  $x = -1$ 

Draw the number line and solve the absolute value equation:

1.  $|x - 3| = 4$



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2.  $|x - 1| = 2$



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3.  $|x - 6| = 2$



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4.  $|x + 5| = 1$



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5.  $|x + 3| = 3$



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

6.  $|x + 2| = 4$



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Solve Algebraically:

1. Get absolute value by itself
2. Set up 2 equations  
\*one without the absolute values  
\*the other without absolute values and change the sign of the right side.
3. Check in the original

Example 1:

$$\begin{array}{l} |x-3| = 4 \\ x-3 = 4 \quad \text{or} \quad x-3 = -4 \\ \underline{+3 \quad +3} \quad \quad \quad \underline{+3 \quad +3} \\ x = 7 \quad \quad \quad \quad x = -1 \end{array}$$

Check:

$$\begin{array}{l} |x-3| = 4 \\ |7-3| = 4 \\ |4| = 4 \checkmark \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} |x-3| = 4 \\ |-1-3| = 4 \\ |-4| = 4 \checkmark \end{array}$$

Answer:  $x = 7$  or  $x = -1$

Example 2:

$$\begin{array}{l} |x+2| = 5 \\ x+2 = 5 \quad \text{or} \quad x+2 = -5 \\ \underline{-2 \quad -2} \quad \quad \quad \underline{-2 \quad -2} \\ x = 3 \quad \quad \quad \quad x = -7 \end{array}$$

Check:

$$\begin{array}{l} |x+2| = 5 \\ |3+2| = 5 \\ |5| = 5 \checkmark \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} |x+2| = 5 \\ |-7+2| = 5 \\ |-5| = 5 \checkmark \end{array}$$

Answer:  $x = 3$  or  $x = -7$

Try:

1.  $|x-1| = 2$

2.  $|x+5| = 1$

3.  $|3x-1| = 2$

4.  $|-2x+5| = 1$

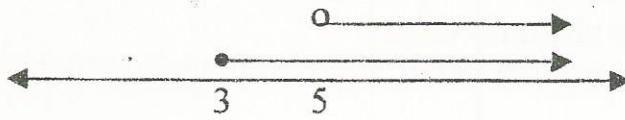
Find the solution:

AND – WHERE THERE IS 2 LINES (INTERSECTION)

OR – AT LEAST ONE LINE (UNION)

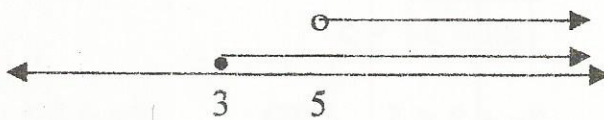
1. AND

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



2. OR

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



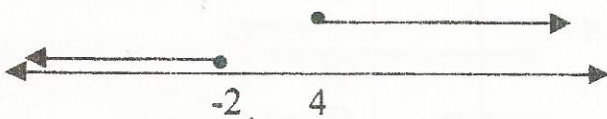
3. AND

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



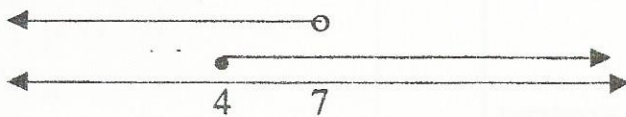
4. OR

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



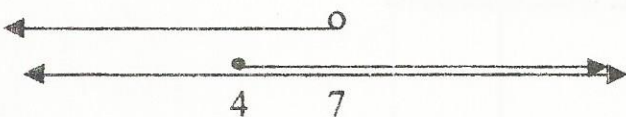
5. AND

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



6. OR

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



$|x| > \#$  means OR  
 $|x| < \#$  means AND

1. Get the Absolute Value by itself
2. Make TWO inequalities with the correct word OR/AND
  - \*first inequality – just take off the absolute value
  - \*second inequality – take off the absolute value, flip  $<$  symbol, and change signs on the right side

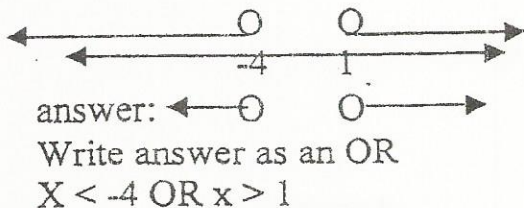
Example:

$$|2x + 3| > 5$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \downarrow \\ 2x + 3 > 5 \quad \text{OR} \quad 2x + 3 < -5 \\ \underline{-3 \quad 3} \qquad \qquad \underline{-3 \quad -3} \\ 2x > 2 \qquad \qquad 2x < -8 \\ \underline{2 \quad 2} \qquad \qquad \underline{2 \quad 2} \end{array}$$

$x > 1$       OR       $x < -4$

OR means 1 or more lines



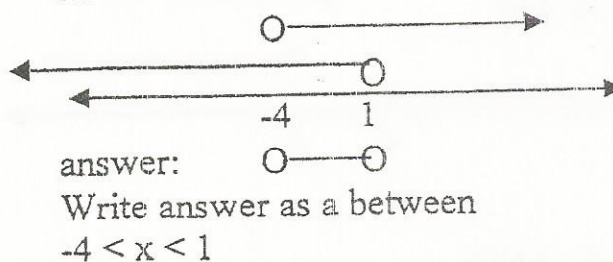
Example

$$|2x + 3| < 5$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \downarrow \\ 2x + 3 < 5 \quad \text{AND} \quad 2x + 3 > -5 \\ \underline{-3 \quad -3} \qquad \qquad \underline{-3 \quad -3} \\ 2x < 2 \qquad \qquad 2x > -8 \\ \underline{2 \quad 2} \qquad \qquad \underline{2 \quad 2} \end{array}$$

$x < 1$       AND       $x > -4$

AND means 2 lines



Be careful to watch the following:

$ x  = \text{NEGATIVE}$	NO SOLUTION
$ x  < \text{NEGATIVE}$	NO SOLUTION
$ x  > \text{NEGATIVE}$	INFINITE SOLUTIONS