

## C FUNCTION NOTATION

[3.1, 3.6]

The machine alongside has been programmed to perform a particular function.

If  $f$  is used to represent this function, we say that ' $f$  is the function that will convert  $x$  into  $2x - 1$ '.

So,  $f$  would convert  $2$  into  $2(2) - 1 = 3$  and  
 $-4$  into  $2(-4) - 1 = -9$ .

This function can be written as:  

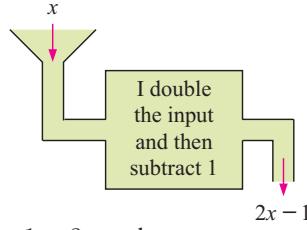
$$\begin{array}{c} f : x \mapsto 2x - 1 \\ \text{function } f \text{ such that } x \text{ maps onto } 2x - 1 \end{array}$$
 or as

If  $f(x)$  is the value of  $y$  for a given value of  $x$ , then  $y = f(x)$ .

Notice that for  $f(x) = 2x - 1$ ,  $f(2) = 2(2) - 1 = 3$  and  
 $f(-4) = 2(-4) - 1 = -9$ .

Consequently,  $f(2) = 3$  indicates that the point  $(2, 3)$  lies on the graph of the function.

Likewise,  $f(-4) = -9$  indicates that the point  $(-4, -9)$  also lies on the graph.

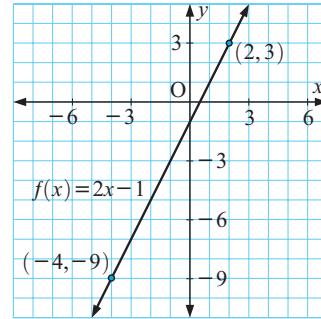


If  $3$  is fed into the machine,  
 $2(3) - 1 = 5$  comes out.

$f(x)$  is read as 'f of x'. It is sometimes called the **image** of  $x$ .



$$f(x) = 2x - 1.$$



### Example 4

### Self Tutor

If  $f : x \mapsto 3x^2 - 4x$ , find the value of: **a**  $f(2)$     **b**  $f(-5)$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} \quad & f(2) \\ &= 3(2)^2 - 4(2) \quad \{ \text{replacing } x \text{ by } (2) \} \\ &= 3 \times 4 - 8 \\ &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{b} \quad & f(-5) \\ &= 3(-5)^2 - 4(-5) \quad \{ \text{replacing } x \text{ by } (-5) \} \\ &= 3(25) + 20 \\ &= 95 \end{aligned}$$

### Example 5

### Self Tutor

If  $f(x) = 4 - 3x - x^2$ , find in simplest form: **a**  $f(-x)$     **b**  $f(x + 2)$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} \quad & f(-x) \\ &= 4 - 3(-x) - (-x)^2 \\ &\quad \{ \text{replacing } x \text{ by } (-x) \} \\ &= 4 + 3x - x^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{b} \quad & f(x + 2) \\ &= 4 - 3(x + 2) - (x + 2)^2 \\ &\quad \{ \text{replacing } x \text{ by } (x + 2) \} \\ &= 4 - 3x - 6 - (x^2 + 4x + 4) \\ &= -2 - 3x - x^2 - 4x - 4 \\ &= -x^2 - 7x - 6 \end{aligned}$$



**EXERCISE 19C**

- 1** **a** If  $f(x) = 3x - 7$ , find and interpret  $f(5)$ .  
**b** If  $g : x \mapsto x - x^2$ , find and interpret  $g(3)$ .  
**c** If  $H(x) = \frac{2x+5}{x-1}$ , find and interpret  $H(4)$ .
- 2** **a** If  $f(x) = 5 - 4x$ , find: **i**  $f(0)$       **ii**  $f(3)$       **iii**  $f(-4)$       **iv**  $f(100)$   
**b** If  $E(x) = 2(3-x)$ , find: **i**  $E(0)$       **ii**  $E(1)$       **iii**  $E(5)$       **iv**  $E(-2)$   
**c** If  $h : x \mapsto \frac{x}{x-3}$ , find: **i**  $h(2)$       **ii**  $h(5)$       **iii**  $h(10)$       **iv**  $h(-7)$
- 3** **a** If  $f : x \mapsto 5 - x^2$ , find: **i**  $f(4)$       **ii**  $x$  when  $f(x) = 1$ .  
**b** If  $g(x) = \frac{x+1}{10}$ , find: **i**  $g(4)$       **ii**  $a$  when  $g(a) = 2$ .  
**c** If  $m(x) = x^2 - 3$ , find: **i**  $x$  when  $m(x) = 0$       **ii**  $x$  when  $m(x) = 1$ .  
**d** If  $f(x) = 3x + 5$  and  $g(x) = 2x - 3$ , find  $x$  when  $f(x) = g(x)$ .
- 4** The value of a car  $t$  years after purchase is given by  $V(t) = 28000 - 4000t$  dollars.  
**a** Find  $V(4)$  and state what this value means.  
**b** Find  $t$  when  $V(t) = 8000$  and explain what this represents.  
**c** Find the original purchase price of the car.  
**d** Do you think this formula is valid for all  $t > 0$ ?



- 5** Sketch the graph of  $y = f(x)$  where  $f(x) = 2x - 1$  on the domain  $\{x \mid -3 \leq x \leq 1\}$ . State the range of this function.
- 6** Sketch the graph of  $y = g(x)$  where  $g(x) = 6 - 5x$  on the domain  $\{x \mid -2 \leq x \leq 2\}$ . State the range of this function.
- 7** The graph of a function is given alongside. Use the graph to:  
**a** find  $f(2)$   
**b** estimate  $x$ , to 1 decimal place, when  $f(x) = -3$ .
- 8** If  $f(x) = 5 - 2x$ , find in simplest form:  
**a**  $f(a)$       **b**  $f(-a)$       **c**  $f(a+1)$       **d**  $f(x-3)$       **e**  $f(2x)$
- 9** If  $P(x) = x^2 + 4x - 3$ , find in simplest form:  
**a**  $P(x+2)$       **b**  $P(1-x)$       **c**  $P(-x)$       **d**  $P(x^2)$       **e**  $P(x^2 + 1)$

