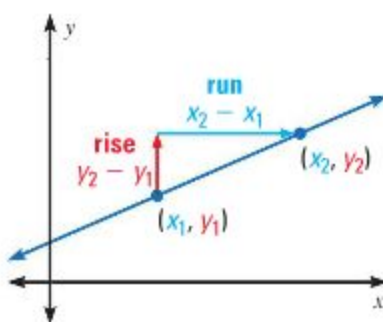


The **slope** of a nonvertical line is the ratio of vertical change (*rise*) to horizontal change (*run*) between any two points on the line.

If a line in the coordinate plane passes through points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) then the slope m is

$$m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{\text{change in } y}{\text{change in } x} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$



KEY CONCEPT

For Your Notebook

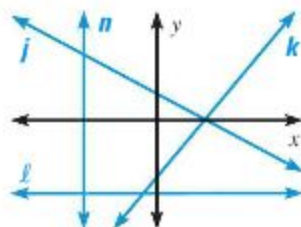
Slope of Lines in the Coordinate Plane

Negative slope: falls from left to right, as in line j

Positive slope: rises from left to right, as in line k

Zero slope (slope of 0): horizontal, as in line ℓ

Undefined slope: vertical, as in line n



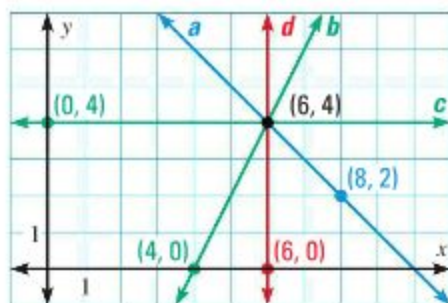
Find the slope of line a and line d .

Solution

$$\text{Slope of line } a: m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{4 - 2}{6 - 8} = \frac{2}{-2} = -1$$

$$\text{Slope of line } d: m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{4 - 0}{6 - 6} = \frac{4}{0},$$

which is undefined.



GUIDED PRACTICE for Example 1

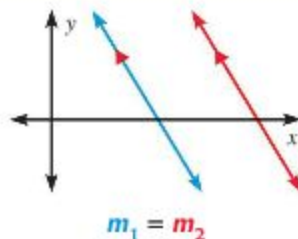
Use the graph in Example 1. Find the slope of the line.

- Line b
- Line c

POSTULATES*For Your Notebook***POSTULATE 17 Slopes of Parallel Lines**

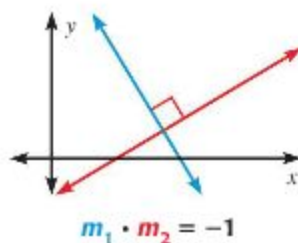
In a coordinate plane, two nonvertical lines are parallel if and only if they have the same slope.

Any two vertical lines are parallel.

**POSTULATE 18 Slopes of Perpendicular Lines**

In a coordinate plane, two nonvertical lines are perpendicular if and only if the product of their slopes is -1 .

Horizontal lines are perpendicular to vertical lines.

**EXAMPLE 2 Identify parallel lines**

Find the slope of each line. Which lines are parallel?

Solution

Find the slope of k_1 through $(-2, 4)$ and $(-3, 0)$.

$$m_1 = \frac{0 - 4}{-3 - (-2)} = \frac{-4}{-1} = 4$$

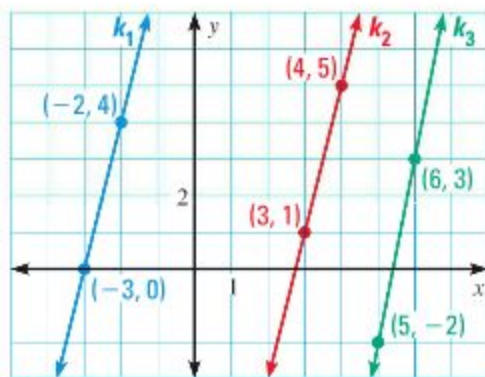
Find the slope of k_2 through $(4, 5)$ and $(3, 1)$.

$$m_2 = \frac{1 - 5}{3 - 4} = \frac{-4}{-1} = 4$$

Find the slope of k_3 through $(6, 3)$ and $(5, -2)$.

$$m_3 = \frac{-2 - 3}{5 - 6} = \frac{-5}{-1} = 5$$

► Compare the slopes. Because k_1 and k_2 have the same slope, they are parallel. The slope of k_3 is different, so k_3 is not parallel to the other lines.



Line h passes through $(3, 0)$ and $(7, 6)$. Graph the line perpendicular to h that passes through the point $(2, 5)$.

Solution

STEP 1 Find the slope m_1 of line h through $(3, 0)$ and $(7, 6)$.

$$m_1 = \frac{6 - 0}{7 - 3} = \frac{6}{4} = \frac{3}{2}$$

STEP 2 Find the slope m_2 of a line perpendicular to h . Use the fact that the product of the slopes of two perpendicular lines is -1 .

$$\frac{3}{2} \cdot m_2 = -1 \quad \text{Slopes of perpendicular lines}$$

$$m_2 = \frac{-2}{3} \quad \text{Multiply each side by } \frac{2}{3}.$$

STEP 3 Use the rise and run to graph the line.

