

§2.1 FUNCTIONS

Def: A **FUNCTION** IS A RULE THAT ASSIGNS AN OUTPUT (NUMBER) TO EVERY ACCEPTABLE INPUT (NUMBER)

WE TYPICALLY USE LETTERS f & g FOR FUNCTIONS
(THOUGH ANY LETTER CAN BE USED)

e.g. $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ "f OF x"
 $f(y) = y^2 + 1$ "f OF y"
 $f(t) = t^2 + 1$ "f OF t"

↑ ↓

THIS REPRESENTS THE INPUT THIS SHOWS WHAT TO DO TO THE INPUT TO PRODUCE THE ASSIGNED OUTPUT.

WHAT IS $f(5)$, $f(-3)$, $f(\sqrt{11})$? THIS IS THE RULE.

ex. Let $f(x) = \sqrt{x-2}$. WHAT IS $f(11)$, $f(\frac{121}{36})$, $f(83) - f(102)$?
 $f(-11)$? **UNDEFINED!**

Def: THE **DOMAIN** OF A FUNCTION IS THE SET OF ACCEPTABLE INPUT (NUMBERS).

WE USE INTERVAL NOTATION TO DESCRIBE DOMAINS OF A FUNCTION.

ex. WHAT IS THE DOMAIN OF $f(x) = \sqrt{x-2}$?

ex. Let $f(x) = \frac{3|x-5|}{x-1}$.

(a) EVALUATE $f(3)$, $f(-9)$,
 $f(a)$, $f(-a)$,
 $f(a+1)$, $f(a+h)$
 $f(\frac{1}{x})$, $f(x-2)$

(b) FIND DOMAIN OF f .

ex. Let $f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 3$.

FIND & SIMPLIFY $\frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$.

ex. FIND THE DOMAIN OF $g(t) = \frac{\sqrt{t^2 - 16}}{t - 12}$

- (1) EXPRESSIONS INSIDE $\sqrt{\quad}$ MUST BE ≥ 0 .
- (2) EXPRESSIONS IN DENOMINATOR(S) MUST BE $\neq 0$.

PIECEWISE DEFINED FUNCTIONS

DIFFERENT RULES FOR DIFFERENT INPUTS

34. $f(x) = \begin{cases} 3x & \text{if } x < 0 \\ x + 1 & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 2 \\ (x - 2)^2 & \text{if } x > 2 \end{cases}$

$f(-5), f(0), f(1), f(2), f(5)$

NET CHANGE: GIVEN A FUNCTION $f(x)$ & TWO NUMBERS $a < b$ (IN DOMAIN OF f)

THE NET CHANGE IN f FROM a TO b IS

$f(b) - f(a)$.

ex. Let $f(x) = 3x^2 + x$. FIND THE NET CHANGE FROM 2 TO 6.