

Shifts of Functions

The Six Major Types of Shifts

Equation	Effect on the graph	Example:
$y = -f(x)$	Reflection across the x -axis	<p>A Cartesian coordinate system with x and y axes ranging from -4 to 4. A solid triangle representing the function $f(x)$ is shown for $x \geq -1$, with vertices at (-1, 0), (0, 1), and (1, 2). A dashed triangle representing $-f(x)$ is shown for $x \leq -1$, with vertices at (-1, 0), (0, -1), and (1, -2). Labels $f(x)$ and $-f(x)$ are placed near their respective triangles.</p>
$y = f(-x)$	Reflection across the y -axis	<p>A Cartesian coordinate system with x and y axes ranging from -4 to 4. A solid triangle representing the function $f(x)$ is shown for $x \geq -1$, with vertices at (-1, 0), (0, 1), and (1, 2). A dashed triangle representing $f(-x)$ is shown for $x \leq -1$, with vertices at (-1, 0), (0, -1), and (1, -2). Labels $f(x)$ and $f(-x)$ are placed near their respective triangles.</p>
$y = f(x) + c$	Shifted Up if $c > 0$ Shifted Down if $c < 0$	<p>A Cartesian coordinate system with x and y axes ranging from -4 to 4. A solid triangle representing the function $f(x)$ is shown for $x \geq -1$, with vertices at (-1, 0), (0, 1), and (1, 2). A dashed triangle representing $f(x) + 2$ is shown for $x \geq -1$, with vertices at (-1, 2), (0, 3), and (1, 4). Another dashed triangle representing $f(x) - 3$ is shown for $x \geq -1$, with vertices at (-1, -3), (0, -2), and (1, -1). Labels $f(x)$, $f(x) + 2$, and $f(x) - 3$ are placed near their respective triangles.</p>
$y = f(x - c)$	Shifted Right if $c > 0$ Shifted Left if $c < 0$	<p>A Cartesian coordinate system with x and y axes ranging from -4 to 4. A solid triangle representing the function $f(x)$ is shown for $x \geq -1$, with vertices at (-1, 0), (0, 1), and (1, 2). A dashed triangle representing $f(x + 2)$ is shown for $x \leq -3$, with vertices at (-3, 0), (-2, 1), and (-1, 2). Another dashed triangle representing $f(x - 3)$ is shown for $x \geq 2$, with vertices at (2, 0), (3, 1), and (4, 2). Labels $f(x)$, $f(x + 2)$, and $f(x - 3)$ are placed near their respective triangles.</p>

Equation	Effect on the graph	Example:
$y = cf(x), c > 0$	Vertical stretch if $c > 1$ Vertical compression if $0 < c < 1$	
$y = f(cx), c > 0$	Horizontal compression if $c > 1$ Horizontal stretch if $0 < c < 1$	

Note: We will often combine more than one shift together to form one new function.

Example: Given $f(x)$, sketch the graph of $2f(x - 1) + 3$

