

# Algebra: Piecewise Defined Functions

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## DIRECTIONS

Evaluate the piecewise function at each  $x$ -value by choosing the correct piece.

1 Evaluate  $f(4)$ :

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & x \leq 0 \\ 2x + 1 & x > 0 \end{cases}$$

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

2 Evaluate  $f(-1)$ :

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & x \leq 0 \\ 2x + 1 & x > 0 \end{cases}$$

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

3 Evaluate  $f(-1)$ :

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x + 1 & x < 0 \\ x^2 - 3 & x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

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

4 Evaluate  $f(4)$ :

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 4 & x \leq 1 \\ 3x - 2 & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

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

5 Evaluate  $f(0)$ :

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x + 1 & x < 0 \\ x^2 - 3 & x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

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

6 Evaluate  $f(3)$ :

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x + 3 & x < 2 \\ x^2 - 1 & x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

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

7 Evaluate  $f(0)$ :

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 4 & x \leq 1 \\ 3x - 2 & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

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

8 Evaluate  $f(2)$ :

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x + 3 & x < 2 \\ x^2 - 1 & x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

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

# Answer Key & Solutions

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**TEACHER NOTES** Students must check the condition for  $x$  first, then substitute into the matching rule.

1 Evaluate  $f(4)$ :

$$= f(4) = 9$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & x \leq 0 \\ 2x+1 & x > 0 \end{cases}$$

2 Evaluate  $f(-1)$ :

$$= f(-1) = 1$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & x \leq 0 \\ 2x+1 & x > 0 \end{cases}$$

3 Evaluate  $f(-1)$ :

$$= f(-1) = -1$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x+1 & x < 0 \\ x^2-3 & x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

4 Evaluate  $f(4)$ :

$$= f(4) = 10$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x+4 & x \leq 1 \\ 3x-2 & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

5 Evaluate  $f(0)$ :

$$= f(0) = -3$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x+1 & x < 0 \\ x^2-3 & x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

6 Evaluate  $f(3)$ :

$$= f(3) = 8$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x+3 & x < 2 \\ x^2-1 & x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

7 Evaluate  $f(0)$ :

$$= f(0) = 4$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x+4 & x \leq 1 \\ 3x-2 & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

8 Evaluate  $f(2)$ :

$$= f(2) = 3$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x+3 & x < 2 \\ x^2-1 & x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$