

Key

Write a system of linear equations to represent each problem situation. Define each variable. Then, graph the system of equations and estimate the break-even point. Explain what the break-even point represents with respect to the given problem situation.

#1

Olivia is building birdhouses to raise money for a trip to Hawaii. She spends a total of \$30 on the tools needed to build the houses. The material to build each birdhouse costs \$3.25. Olivia sells each birdhouse for \$10.

x = number of birdhouses

$C(x)$ = cost of ~~selling~~ making x birdhouses

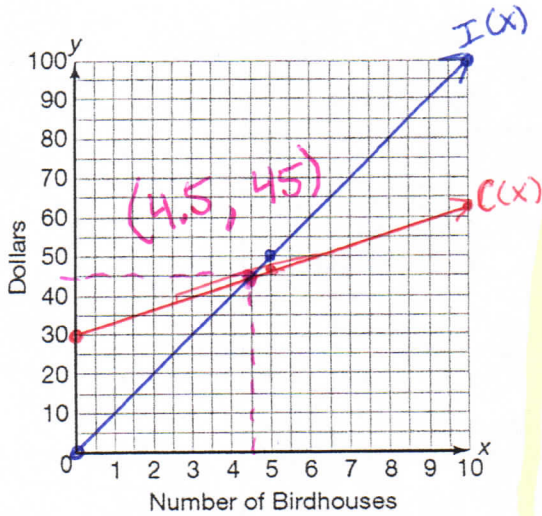
$I(x)$ = Income from selling x birdhouses

$C(x) = 3.25x + 30$

x	$C(x)$
0	30
5	46.25
10	62.50

$I(x) = 10x$

x	$I(x)$
0	0
5	50
10	100



The break-even point is about $(4.5, 45)$, which means if she were to sell 4.5 bird houses, her costs and income would be equal, \$45. She would not make any money, nor would she lose any. However, Olivia cannot make/sell 0.5 of a bird house, so the break-even point does not make sense in this problem.

Solve each system of equations by substitution. Determine whether the system is consistent or inconsistent.

step 1: get y by itself.

#2

$\begin{cases} 0.5x + 1.2y = 2 \\ 3.3x - 0.7y = 3 \end{cases}$

$0.5x + 1.2y = 2$
 $-0.5x \quad -0.5x$

$1.2y = -0.5x + 2$
 $\frac{1.2y}{1.2} = \frac{-0.5x}{1.2} + \frac{2}{1.2}$

$y = -0.42x + 1.67$

$3.3x - 0.7y = 3$
 $-3.3x \quad -3.3x$

$-0.7y = -3.3x + 3$
 $\frac{-0.7y}{-0.7} = \frac{-3.3x}{-0.7} + \frac{3}{-0.7}$

$y = 4.71x - 4.29$

problem cont. next page

#3

$\begin{cases} 2x + y = 9 \\ y = 5x + 2 \end{cases}$

y is already by itself 😊

$2x + y = 9$
 $-2x \quad -2x$

$y = -2x + 9$

$y = 5x + 2$

problem cont. next page

Step 2: set equations equal to each other and solve for x

#2

$$\begin{cases} y = -0.42x + 1.67 \\ y = 4.71x - 4.29 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -0.42x + 1.67 = 4.71x - 4.29 \\ -4.71x \qquad -4.71x \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -5.13x + 1.67 = -4.29 \\ -1.67 \quad -1.67 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -5.13x = 5.96 \\ \underline{-5.13} \quad \underline{-5.13} \end{array}$$

$$x = 1.16$$

#3

$$\begin{cases} y = -2x + 9 \\ y = 5x + 2 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -2x + 9 = 5x + 2 \\ -5x \quad -5x \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -7x + 9 = 2 \\ -9 \quad -9 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -7x = -7 \\ \underline{-7} \quad \underline{-7} \end{array}$$

$$x = 1$$

Step 3: Plug in the value of x into one of the equations to solve for y

$$x = 1.16$$

$$y = 4.71x - 4.29$$

$$y = 4.71(1.16) - 4.29$$

$$y = 1.17$$

$$x = 1$$

$$y = -2x + 9$$

$$y = -2(1) + 9$$

$$y = 7$$

Step 4: write your solution as an ordered pair and interpret your results

$$\text{Solution: } (1.16, 1.17)$$

$$\text{Solution: } (1, 7)$$