

# Quadratic Formula

Remember the quadratic equation:  $ax^2 + bx + c$

$$\text{Quadratic Formula: } \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Make sure the equation equals zero before finding a, b, c and plugging in.

**Example:**  $x^2 - 2x - 24 = 0$

Identify the a, b, and c.

a = 1    b = -2    c = -24

Plug in

$$\frac{-(-2) \pm \sqrt{(-2)^2 - 4(1)(-24)}}{2(1)}$$

Simplify all individual parts

$$\frac{2 \pm \sqrt{100}}{2}$$

Check the radical:  $\sqrt{100} = 10$

$$\frac{2 \pm 10}{2}$$

Get answers

$$\frac{2+10}{2} = 6$$

AND

$$\frac{2-10}{2} = -4$$

{6, -4}

**Example:**  $x^2 + 8x + 16 = 0$

Identify the a, b, and c.

a = 1    b = 8    c = 16

Plug in

$$\frac{-8 \pm \sqrt{8^2 - 4(1)(16)}}{2(1)}$$

Simplify all individual parts

$$\frac{-8 \pm \sqrt{0}}{2}$$

Check the radical:  $\sqrt{0} = 0$

$$\frac{-8}{2}$$

Get answers

$$\frac{-8}{2} = -4$$

{-4}

**Example:**  $-2x^2 + 6x - 5 = 0$

Identify the a, b, and c.

a = -2    b = 6    c = -5

Plug in

$$\frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{6^2 - 4(-2)(-5)}}{2(-2)}$$

Simplify all individual parts

$$\frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{-4}}{-4}$$

Check the radical:  $\sqrt{-4} = \text{No Real Root}$

Get answers

*No Real Root*

**Example:**  $-5 = -x^2 - 2x$

Must make equation equal zero.

$$-5 = -x^2 - 2x$$

Add five to both sides

$$+5 \qquad \qquad +5$$

$$-x^2 - 2x + 5 = 0$$

Identify the a, b, and c.

a = -1    b = -2    c = 5

Plug in

$$\frac{-(-2) \pm \sqrt{(-2)^2 - 4(-1)(5)}}{2(-1)}$$

Simplify all individual parts

$$\frac{2 \pm \sqrt{24}}{-2}$$

Check the radical:  $\sqrt{24} = 4.899$

$$\frac{2 \pm 4.899}{-2}$$

Get answers

$$\frac{2+4.899}{-2} = 3.45$$

AND

$$\frac{2-4.899}{-2} = -1.45$$

{3.45, -1.45}