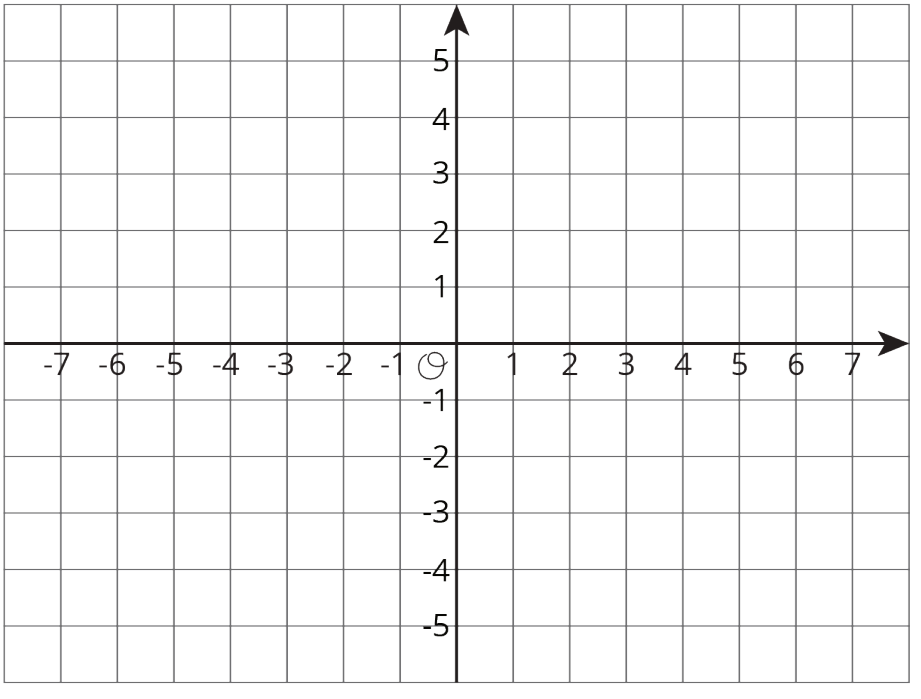
Lesson 14: Distances on a Coordinate Plane

Let's explore distance on the coordinate plane.

14.1: Coordinate Patterns

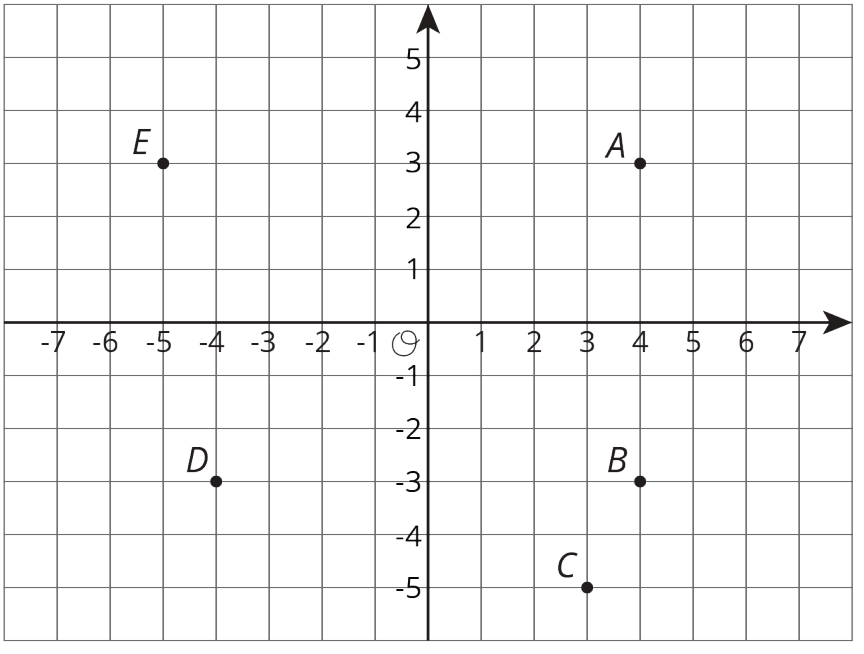
Plot points in your assigned quadrant and label them with their coordinates.



CC BY Open Up Resources. Adaptations CC BY IM.

14.2: Signs of Numbers in Coordinates

1. Write the coordinates of each point.



$A =$

$B =$

$C =$

$D =$

$E =$

2. Answer these questions for each pair of points.

   - How are the coordinates the same? How are they different?
   - How far away are they from the y-axis? To the left or to the right of it?
   - How far away are they from the x-axis? Above or below it?

   a. A and B

   b. B and D

   c. A and D

Pause here for a class discussion.

CC BY Open Up Resources. Adaptations CC BY IM.

3. Point F has the same coordinates as point C, except its y-coordinate has the opposite sign.

   a. Plot point F on the coordinate plane and label it with its coordinates.

   b. How far away are F and C from the x-axis?

   c. What is the distance between F and C?

4. Point G has the same coordinates as point E, except its x-coordinate has the opposite sign.

   a. Plot point G on the coordinate plane and label it with its coordinates.

   b. How far away are G and E from the y-axis?

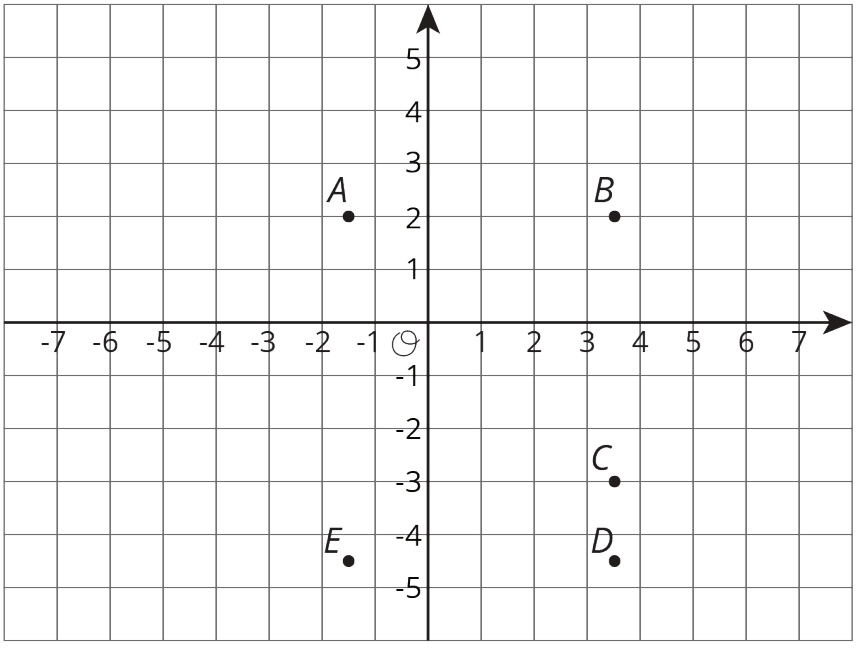
   c. What is the distance between G and E?

5. Point H has the same coordinates as point B, except its *both* coordinates have the opposite sign. In which quadrant is point H?

CC BY Open Up Resources. Adaptations CC BY IM.

14.3: Finding Distances on a Coordinate Plane

1. Label each point with its coordinates.



2. Find the distance between each of the following pairs of points.

   a. Point B and C

   b. Point D and B

   c. Point D and E

3. Which of the points are 5 units from $(-1.5, -3)$?

4. Which of the points are 2 units from $(0.5, -4.5)$?

5. Plot a point that is both 2.5 units from A and 9 units from E. Label that point M and write down its coordinates.

CC BY Open Up Resources. Adaptations CC BY IM.

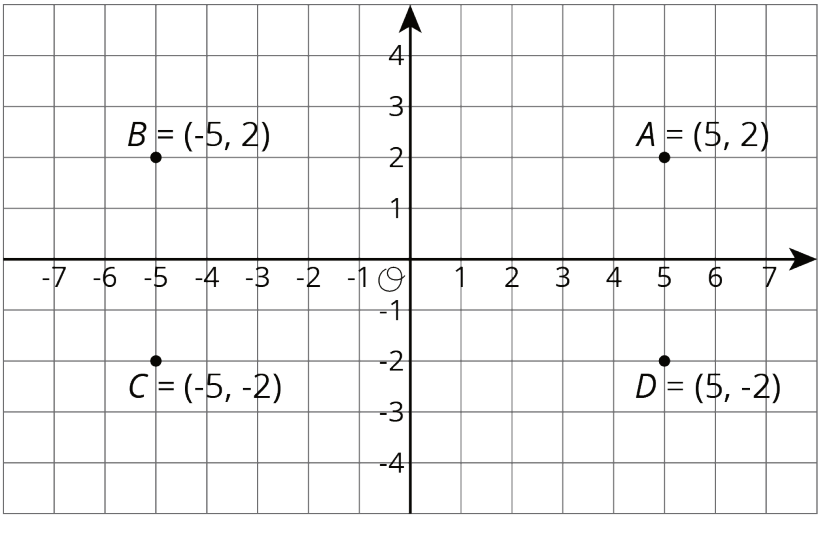
Are you ready for more?

Priya says, "There are exactly four points that are 3 units away from $(-5, 0)$." Lin says, "I think there are a whole bunch of points that are 3 units away from $(-5, 0)$."

Do you agree with either of them? Explain your reasoning.

Lesson 14 Summary

The points $A = (5, 2)$, $B = (-5, 2)$, $C = (-5, -2)$, and $D = (5, -2)$ are shown in the plane. Notice that they all have almost the same coordinates, except the signs are different. They are all the same distance from each axis but are in different quadrants.

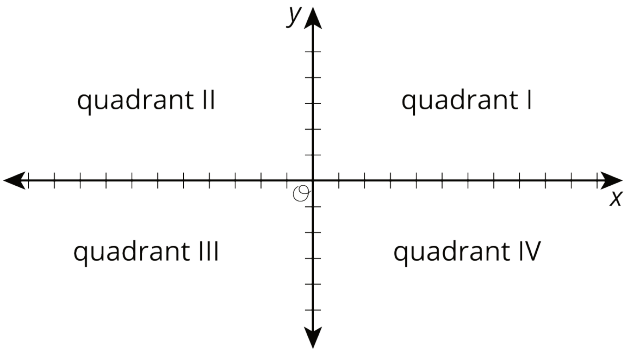


Notice that the vertical distance between points A and D is 4 units, because point A is 2 units above the horizontal axis and point D is 2 units below the horizontal axis. The horizontal distance between points A and B is 10 units, because point B is 5 units to the left of the vertical axis and point A is 5 units to the right of the vertical axis.

CC BY Open Up Resources. Adaptations CC BY IM.

We can always tell which quadrant a point is located in by the signs of its coordinates.

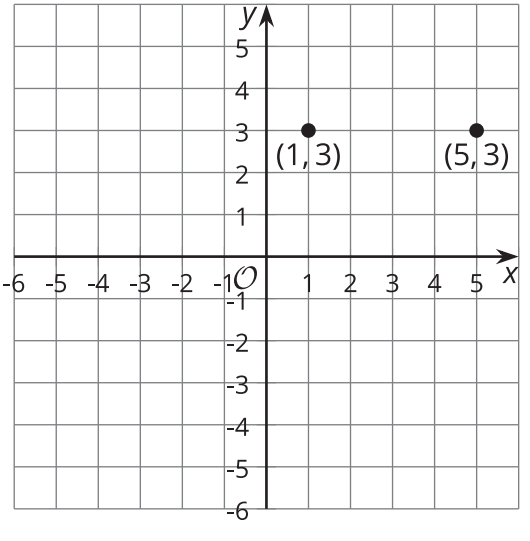
x	y	quadrant
positive	positive	I
negative	positive	II
negative	negative	III
positive	negative	IV



In general:

- If two points have x-coordinates that are opposites (like 5 and -5), they are the same distance away from the vertical axis, but one is to the left and the other to the right.
- If two points have y-coordinates that are opposites (like 2 and -2), they are the same distance away from the horizontal axis, but one is above and the other below.

When two points have the same value for the first or second coordinate, we can find the distance between them by subtracting the coordinates that are different. For example, consider $(1, 3)$ and $(5, 3)$:



They have the same y-coordinate. If we subtract the x-coordinates, we get $5 - 1 = 4$. These points are 4 units apart.

CC BY Open Up Resources. Adaptations CC BY IM.