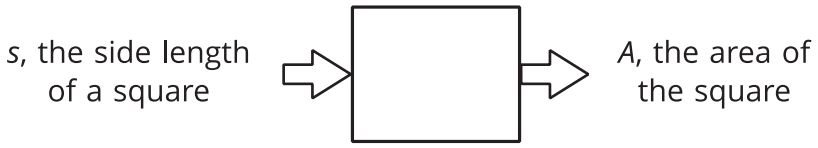
Equations for Functions

Let's find outputs from equations.

3.1 A Square's Area

Fill in the table of input-output pairs for the given rule. Write an algebraic expression for the rule in the box in the diagram.



input	output
8	
2.2	
$12\frac{1}{4}$	
s	

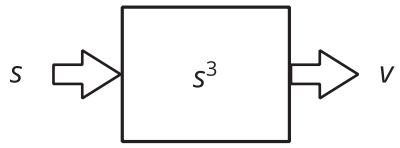
CC BY NC Illustrative Mathematics, based on IM 6–8 Math, CC BY Open Up Resources.

3.2 Diagrams, Equations, and Descriptions

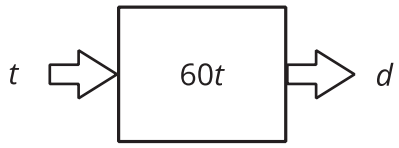
Record your answers to these questions in the table provided.

1. Match each of these descriptions with a diagram:
   a. The circumference, C, of a circle with radius, r
   b. The distance in miles, d, that someone would travel in t hours if they drove at 60 miles per hour
   c. The output that results from tripling the input and subtracting 4
   d. The volume of a cube, v, given its edge length, s

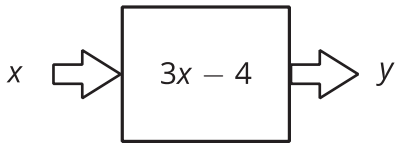
A



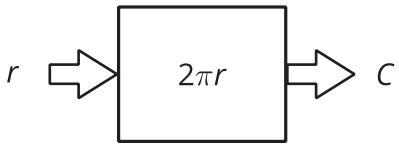
B



C



D



2. Write an equation for each description that expresses the output as a function of the input.

3. For each equation, find the output when the input is 5.

4. Name the **independent** and **dependent variables** of each equation.

description	a	b	c	d
diagram				
equation				
input = 5 output = ?				
independent variable				
dependent variable				

Are you ready for more?

Choose a 3-digit number as an input.

Apply the following rule to it, one step at a time:

- Multiply your number by 7.
- Add 1 to the result.
- Multiply the result by 11.
- Subtract 5 from the result.
- Multiply the result by 13.
- Subtract 78 from the result to get the output.

Can you describe a simpler way to describe this rule? Why does this work?

3.3 Dimes and Quarters

Jada had some dimes and quarters that had a total value of $12.50. The relationship between the number of dimes, d, and the number of quarters, q, can be expressed by the equation $0.1d + 0.25q = 12.5$.

1. If Jada has 4 quarters, how many dimes does she have?

2. If Jada has 10 quarters, how many dimes does she have?

3. Is the number of dimes a function of the number of quarters? Be prepared to justify your reasoning.

4. If Jada has 25 dimes, how many quarters does she have?

5. If Jada has 30 dimes, how many quarters does she have?

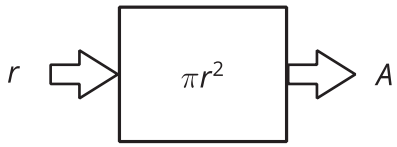
6. Is the number of quarters a function of the number of dimes? Be prepared to justify your reasoning.

Lesson 3 Summary

We can sometimes represent functions with equations. For example, the area, A, of a circle is a function of the radius, r, and we can express this with this equation:

$$A = \pi r^2$$

We can also draw a diagram to represent this function:



In this case, we think of the radius, r, as the input and the area of the circle, A, as the output. For example, if the input is a radius of 10 cm, then the output is an area of 100π cm^2, or about 314 cm^2. Because this is a function, we can find the area, A, for any given radius, r.

Since r is the input, we say that it is the **independent variable**, and since A is the output, we say that it is the **dependent variable**.

We sometimes get to choose which variable is the independent variable in the equation. For example, if we know that

$$10A - 4B = 120$$

then we can think of A as a function of B and write

$$A = 0.4B + 12$$

or we can think of B as a function of A and write

$$B = 2.5A - 30$$