

Changing Quadratic Relations: The values of 'h' and 'k'

Investigate $y = x^2 + k$

Function	Value of k in $y = x^2 + k$	Direction of Opening	Vertex	Axis of Symmetry	Same shape as $y = ax^2$?
a. $y = x^2$	0	up	(0, 0)	$x = 0$	
b. $y = x^2 + 2$	2	up	(0, 2)	$x = 0$	yes
c. $y = x^2 + 4$	4	up	(0, 4)	$x = 0$	yes
d. $y = x^2 - 1$	-1	up	(0, -1)	$x = 0$	yes
e. $y = x^2 - 3$	-3	up	(0, -3)	$x = 0$	yes

How does the value of k affect the basic parabola?

- when k is greater than 0, the parabola shifts up
- when k is less than 0, the parabola shifts down

The value of k describes the vertical translation of the parabola.

It is known as the optimal value or y-coordinate of vertex



Example 1

For each of the following, (i) state the transformations, and (ii) graph the parabola.

	$y = x^2 + 3$	$y = x^2 - 2$
(i) TRANSFORMATIONS	$a = 1 \rightarrow$ nothing $k = 3 \rightarrow$ shift up	$a = 1 \rightarrow$ nothing $k = -2 \rightarrow$ shift down
(ii) GRAPH		

Investigate $y = (x - h)^2$

* To determine the value of h , remove it from the brackets by setting the expression equal to zero and solving. *

Function	Value of h in $y = (x - h)^2$	Direction of Opening	Vertex	Axis of Symmetry	Same shape as $y = ax^2$?
a. $y = x^2$	0	up	(0, 0)	$x = 0$	
b. $y = (x - 2)^2$	$x - 2 = 0$ $x = 2$	up	(2, 0)	$x = 2$	yes
c. $y = (x - 4)^2$	$x - 4 = 0$ $x = 4$	up	(4, 0)	$x = 4$	yes
d. $y = (x + 1)^2$	$x + 1 = 0$ $x = -1$	up	(-1, 0)	$x = -1$	yes
e. $y = (x + 3)^2$	$x + 3 = 0$ $x = -3$	up	(-3, 0)	$x = -3$	yes

How does the value of h affect the basic parabola?

- when h is greater than 0, the parabola shifts right (h pos., # in bracket neg.)
- when h is less than 0, the parabola shifts left (h neg., # in bracket pos.)

The value of h describes the horizontal translation of the parabola.

It provides the value for the axis of symmetry and is the x-coordinate of the vertex

Example 2

For each of the following, (i) state the transformations, and (ii) graph the parabola.

	$y = (x + 2)^2 - 3$	$y = (x - 3)^2 + 1$
(i) TRANSFORMATIONS	$a = 1 \rightarrow$ nothing $h = -2 \rightarrow$ shift left $k = -3 \rightarrow$ shift down	$a = 1 \rightarrow$ nothing $h = 3 \rightarrow$ shift right $k = 1 \rightarrow$ shift up
(ii) GRAPH		