

Even and Odd Functions

Terminology	Definition	Illustration	Type of symmetry of graph
f is an even function	$f(x) = f(-x)$ for every x in the domain	$y = f(x) = x^2$	With respect to the y -axis
f is an odd function	$-f(x) = f(-x)$ for every x in the domain	$y = f(x) = x^3$	With respect to the origin

Determine whether f is even, odd or neither even nor odd.

1. $f(x) = 5x^3 + 2x$

$$f(1) = 5(1)^3 + 2(1) = 7$$

$$f(-1) = 5(-1)^3 + 2(-1) = -7$$

odd

2. $f(x) = |x| - 3$

$$f(1) = |1| - 3 = -2$$

$$f(-1) = |-1| - 3 = -2$$

Even

3. $f(x) = 3x^4 + 2x^2 - 5$

$$f(1) = 3(1)^4 + 2(1)^2 - 5 = 0$$

$$f(-1) = 3(-1)^4 + 2(-1)^2 - 5 = 0$$

Even

4. $f(x) = 7x^5 - 4x^3$

$$f(1) = 7(1)^5 - 4(1)^3 = 3$$

$$f(-1) = 7(-1)^5 - 4(-1)^3 = -3$$

Odd

$$5. \quad f(x) = 8x^3 - 3x^2$$

$$f(1) = 8(1)^3 - 3(1)^2 \quad f(-1) = 8(-1)^3 - 3(-1)^2$$

$$= 5 \quad \quad \quad = -11$$

Neither

$$6. \quad f(x) = 12$$

Even

$$7. \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$f(1) = \frac{1}{1} \quad f(-1) = \frac{1}{-1}$$

$$= 1 \quad \quad \quad = -1$$

Odd

$$8. \quad f(x) = 3x^2 - 5x + 1$$

$$f(1) = 3(1)^2 - 5(1) + 1 \quad f(-1) = 3(-1)^2 - 5(-1) + 1$$

$$= -1 \quad \quad \quad = 9$$

Neither

$$9. \quad f(x) = \sqrt{x^2 + 4}$$

$$f(1) = \sqrt{1^2 + 4} \quad f(-1) = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 4}$$

$$= \sqrt{5} \quad \quad \quad = \sqrt{5}$$

Even

$$10. \quad f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x^3 - x}$$

$$f(1) = \sqrt[3]{1^3 - 1} \quad f(-1) = \sqrt[3]{(-1)^3 - (-1)}$$

$$= 0 \quad \quad \quad = 0$$

$$f(2) = \sqrt[3]{2^3 - 2} \quad f(-2) = \sqrt[3]{(-2)^3 - (-2)}$$

$$= \sqrt[3]{6} \quad \quad \quad = \sqrt[3]{-10}$$

Neither