Function Parameters

- Every "family" has a basic or parent function - the simplest form of that function.

  Eg: $y = x$ $y = x^2$ $y = \sqrt{x}$ $y = \frac{1}{x}$

- We can transform a function by changing certain values called parameters.

- We consider four parameters: a, b, h & k.

In a basic function,

$$a = 1$$

$$b = 1$$

$$h = 0$$

$$k = 0$$

Parameter h

Summary:

Parameter h causes a translation or shift of the function to the left or to the right h units.

$h > 0$ shift to the right

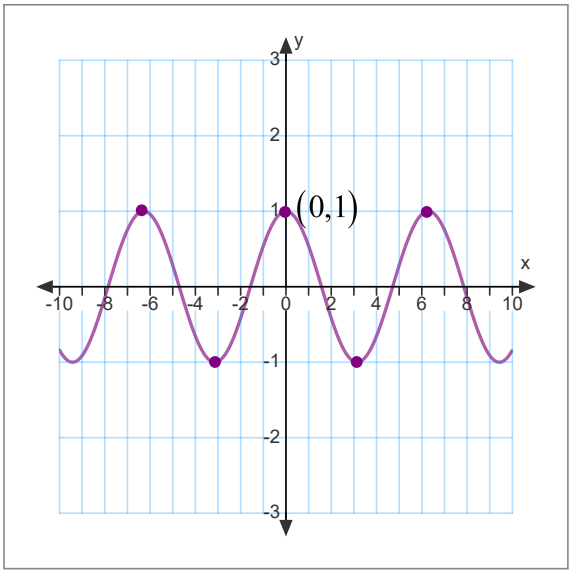
$h < 0$ shift to the left

The rule or equation is written $(x - h)$.

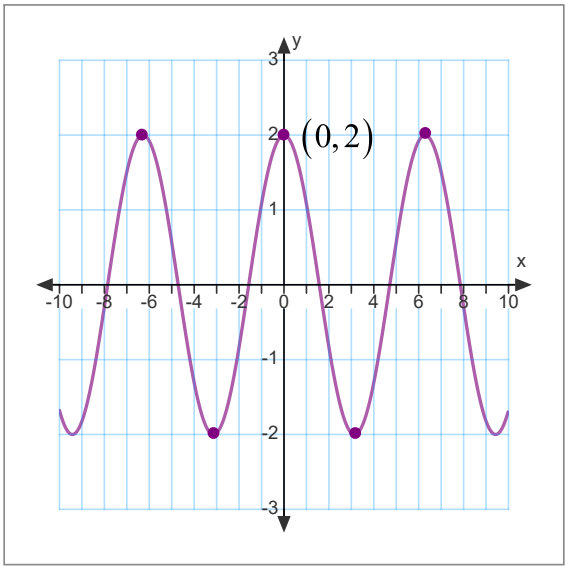
Parameter a

In a basic function $a = 1$.

$y = \cos x$



$y = 2\cos x$ $(a = 2)$



Parameter a (basic function $a = 1$.)

Parameter a affects a function's relationship with the x-axis.

$|a| > 1$ the function moves away from the x-axis. (vertical stretch)

$|a| < 1$ the function moves towards the x-axis. (vertical compression)

$a < 0$ the function is reflected about the x-axis.

Parameter b (basic function: $b = 1$)

Parameter b affects a function's relationship with the y-axis.

$|b| > 1$ the function moves towards the y-axis (horizontal compression).

$|b| < 1$ the function moves away from the y-axis (horizontal stretch).

$b < 0$ the function is reflected about the y-axis.

Example of a function

Basic

$y = \sqrt{x}$

$a = 1$

$b = 1$

$h = 0$

$k = 0$

Transformed (with parameters)

$y = 2\sqrt{-4(x-6)} - 8$

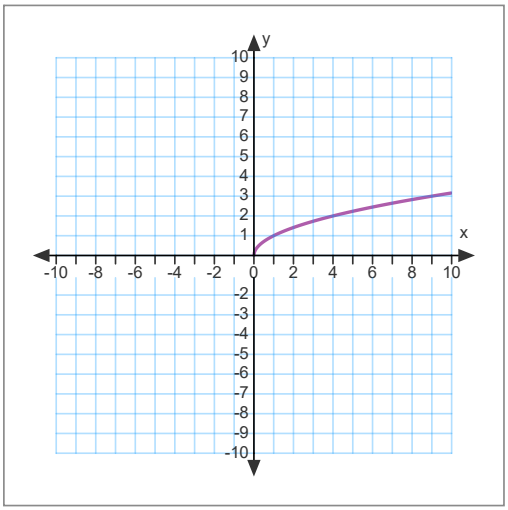
$a = 2$

$b = -4$

$h = 6$

$k = -8$

$$y = \sqrt{x}$$



$$y = 2\sqrt{-4(x-6)} - 8$$