

Graphing Composite Functions

Consider $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ and $g(x) = x^2 + 2$

Determine $f(g(x))$ and $g(f(x))$

$$f(g(x)) = f(x^2 + 2) \\ = \sqrt{x^2 + 2}$$

$$g(x) \text{ D: } \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

$$\text{D: } \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

$$g(f(x)) = g(\sqrt{x}) \\ = (\sqrt{x})^2 + 2 \\ = x + 2$$

$$f(x) \text{ D: } [0, \infty)$$

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★ To find the domain of $f(g(x))$ you must consider the restrictions on the domain of $g(x)$ and the new restrictions for $f(g(x))$

Ex) Consider $f(x) = \frac{1}{x+3}$ and $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$

Determine $f(g(x))$ and $g(f(x))$ and state its domain.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{x} + 3 = 0 \\ \frac{1}{x} = -3 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} f(g(x)) = f\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \\ = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{x} + 3} \end{array}$$

$$g(x) \text{ D: } \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}, x \neq 0\}$$

$$\text{D: } \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}, x \neq 0, -\frac{1}{3}\}$$

$$g(f(x)) = g\left(\frac{1}{x+3}\right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\frac{1}{x+3}}$$

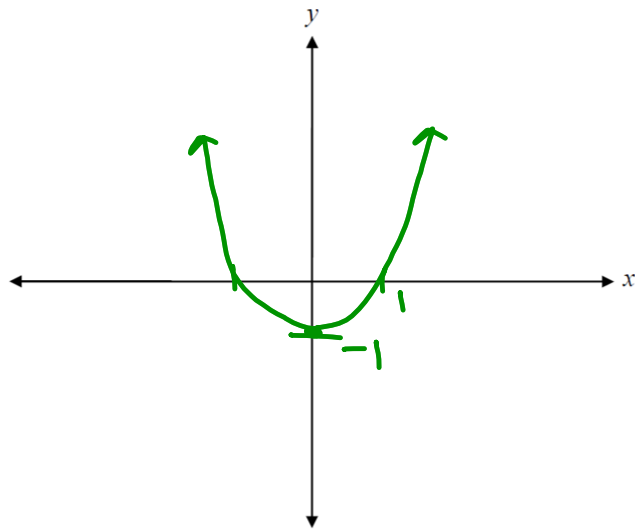
$$= x + 3$$

$$f(x) \text{ D: } \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}, x \neq -3\}$$

$$\text{D: } \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}, x \neq -3\}$$

Given $f(x) = x - 1$ and $g(x) = x^2$, write the equation of $y = f(g(x))$ and sketch the graph.

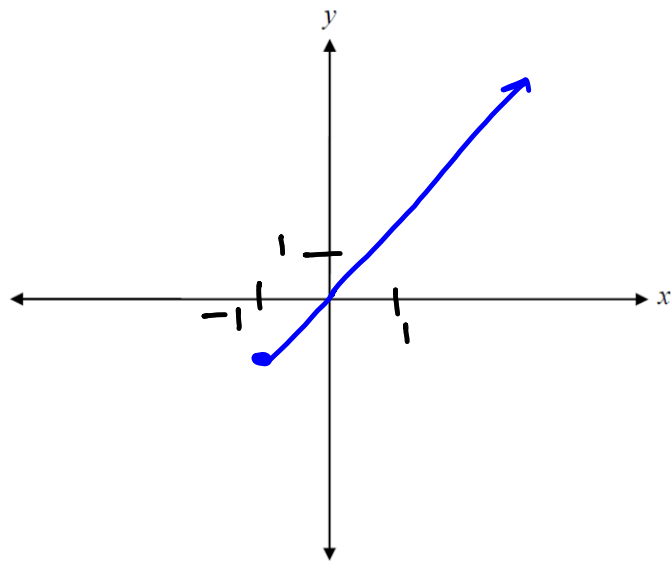
$$\begin{aligned} y &= f(g(x)) \\ &= f(x^2) \\ &= x^2 - 1 \end{aligned}$$



Given $f(x) = x^2 - 1$ and $g(x) = \sqrt{x+1}$, sketch the graph of $y = f(g(x))$ and state its domain.

$$\begin{aligned} y &= f(g(x)) \\ &= f(\sqrt{x+1}) \\ &= (\sqrt{x+1})^2 - 1 \\ &= x \end{aligned}$$

$D: \{x \mid x \geq -1\}$



Ex) Determine possible functions $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ so that:

a) $f(g(x)) = (x - 2)^2$

b) $f(g(x)) = \sqrt{x + 3}$

c) $f(g(x)) = x^2 + 4x + 3$

a) $g(x) = x - 2$
 $f(x) = x^2$

b) $g(x) = x + 3$
 $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$

c) $g(x) = x^2 + 4x + 3$
 $f(x) = x$

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