

Geometric Definition

A circle is the set of all points in a plane that are at a constant distance from a fixed point in that plane. The fixed point is the center of the circle, and the constant distance is the radius of the circle.

A Circle in Standard Form

The equation of a circle in standard form is:

$$(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$$

where the center of the circle is represented by the point (h, k) and the radius is represented by r .

Ex 1) Find an equation of the circle with center $(-3, 2)$ and radius 3.

$$h = -3, k = 2, r = 3$$

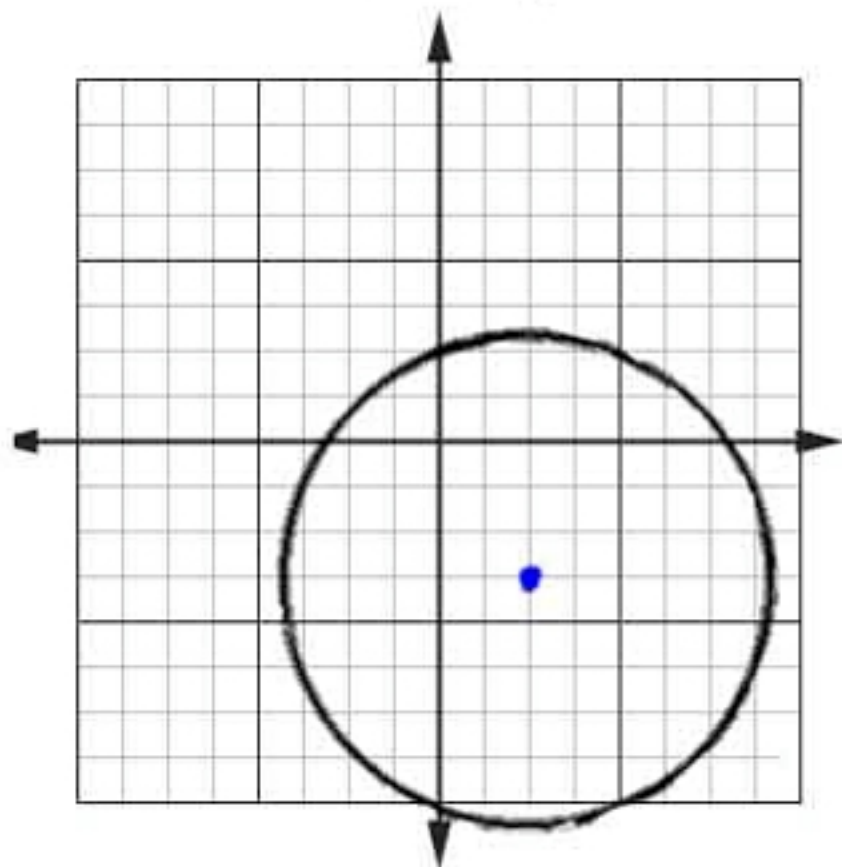
$$(x + 3)^2 + (y - 2)^2 = 3^2$$

$$(x + 3)^2 + (y - 2)^2 = 9$$

Ex 2) Find the center and radius of $(x - 2)^2 + (y + 3)^2 = 16$.

Then graph the circle.

center $(2, -3)$ radius = 4



Circles in General Form:

$$Ax^2 + By^2 + Cx + Dy + E = 0$$

For Circles $A = B$

A & B have to be the same number and same sign.

Ex 3) Find the center and radius of the circle, then graph

$$x^2 + y^2 + 8x - 2y + 15 = 0$$

$$x^2 + 8x + y^2 - 2y = -15$$

$$(x^2 + 8x + 16) + (y^2 - 2y + 1) = -15 + 16 + 1$$

$$(x + 4)^2 + (y - 1)^2 = 2$$

$$\text{center}(-4, 1) \quad \text{radius} = \sqrt{2} \\ \approx 1.4$$

