

Gradient of a Line

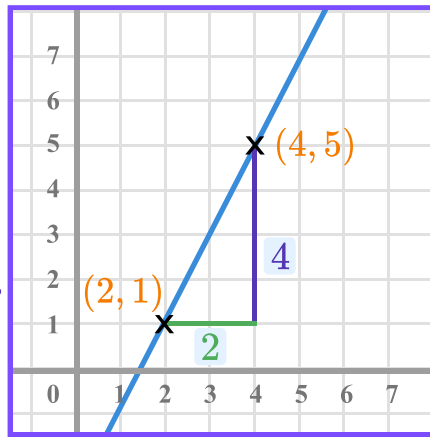
The **gradient of a line** shows how steep the straight line is. In the general equation of straight line, $y = mx + c$, the gradient is denoted by the letter m .

To calculate the gradient of a straight line through two coordinates (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) :

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

 Example

$$m = \frac{5 - 1}{4 - 2} = \frac{4}{2} = 2$$



It can be helpful to think about this formula as:
“change in y divided by change in x ” or
“rise over run”.