

### Investigating Transformations of Quadratics

Relation	Linear	Quadratic																								
Equation	$y = mx + b$	$y = a(x - h)^2 + k$																								
No Transformations Equation <span style="color: blue;">PARENT</span>	$y = x$	$y = x^2$																								
Key Points	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">x</th> <th style="width: 30%;">y</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">-2</td><td style="text-align: center;">-2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">-1</td><td style="text-align: center;">-1</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	x	y	-2	-2	-1	-1	0	0	1	1	2	2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">x</th> <th style="width: 30%;">y</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">-2</td><td style="text-align: center;"><math>(-2)^2 = 4</math></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">-1</td><td style="text-align: center;"><math>(-1)^2 = 1</math></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;"><math>(0)^2 = 0</math></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;"><math>(1)^2 = 1</math></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;"><math>(2)^2 = 4</math></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	x	y	-2	$(-2)^2 = 4$	-1	$(-1)^2 = 1$	0	$(0)^2 = 0$	1	$(1)^2 = 1$	2	$(2)^2 = 4$
x	y																									
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Graph																										

**Investigation A: Compare  $y = x^2$  and  $y = x^2 + k$**

Use a graphing calculator to graph the quadratic functions on the same set of axis and complete the following table.

Function	Value of k in $y = x^2 + k$	Direction of opening	Vertex	Axis of symmetry	Congruent to $y = x^2$ ?
$y = x^2$	0	up	(0,0)	$x = 0$	Yes
$y = x^2 + 2$	2	up	(0,2)	$x = 0$	YES
$y = x^2 + 4$	4	UP	(0,4)	$x = 0$	
$y = x^2 - 1$	-1	UP	(0,-1)	$x = 0$	
$y = x^2 - 3$	-3	UP	(0,-3)	$x = 0$	$x^2 + 4$ $x^2 + 2$

✓ a. Sketch the graphs on the same axes. Label each parabola with its equation.

b. Describe how the value of k in  $y = x^2 + k$  changes the graph of  $y = x^2$ .

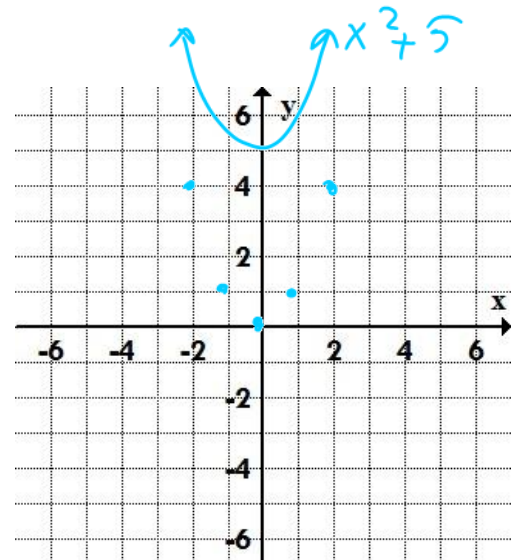
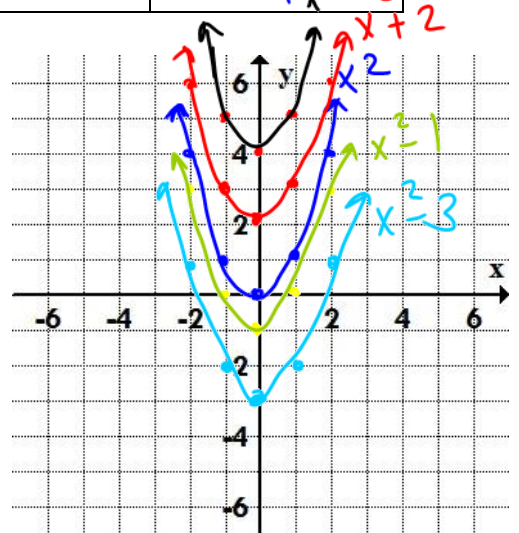
When  $k > 0$  graph moves up  
 $k < 0$  graph moves down

c. What happens to the x-coordinates of all points on  $y = x^2$  when the function is changed to  $y = x^2 + k$ ? What happens to the y-coordinates?

They move up or down

d. Without using a graphing calculator, sketch the graph of

$y = x^2 + 8$



**Investigation B: Compare  $y = x^2$  and  $y = (x-h)^2$**

Clear all previous equations from your calculator. Repeat part A for the following:

Function	Value of h in $y = (x-h)^2$	Direction of opening	Vertex	Axis of symmetry	Congruent to $y = x^2$ ?
$y = x^2$	0	up	(0,0)	$x = 0$	Yes
$y = (x-2)^2$	2	UP	(2,0)	$x = 2$	YES
$y = (x-4)^2$	4	UP	(4,0)	$x = 4$	YES
$y = (x+2)^2$	-2	UP	(-2,0)	$x = -2$	YES
$y = (x+3)^2$	-3	UP	(-3,0)	$x = -3$	YES

a. Sketch the graphs on the same axes. Label each parabola with its equation.

b. Describe how the value of h in  $y = (x-h)^2$  changes the graph of  $y = x^2$ .

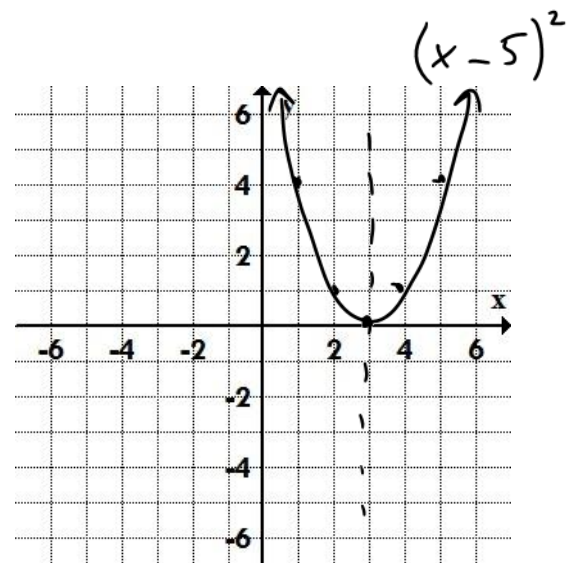
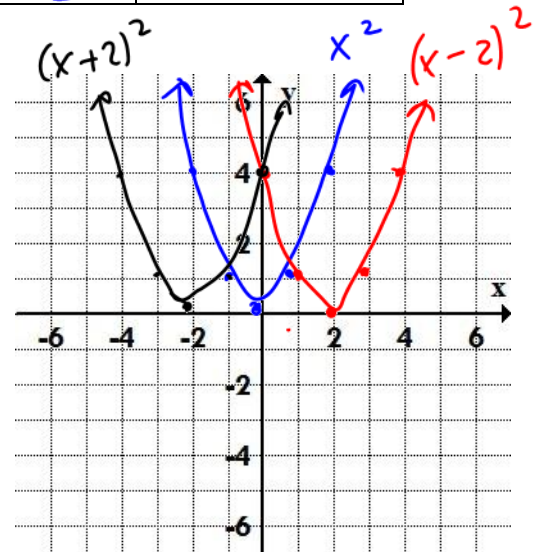
when  $h > 0$  it moves right  
 $h < 0$  it moves left

c. What happens to the x-coordinates of all points on  $y = x^2$  when the function is changed to  $y = (x-h)^2$ ? What happens to the y-coordinates?

→ y-coordinates remain the same

d. Without using a graphing calculator, sketch the graph of  $y = (x-5)^2$

↓  
 $x = 5$



**Investigation C: Compare  $y = x^2$  and  $y = ax^2$**

Clear all previous equations from your calculator. Repeat part A for the following:

Function	Value of a in $y = ax^2$	Direction of opening	Vertex	Axis of symmetry	Congruent to $y = x^2$ ?
$y = x^2$	1	up	(0,0)	$x = 0$	Yes
$y = 2x^2$	2	↑	(0,0)	$x = 0$	NO
$y = 0.5x^2$	0.5	↑	(0,0)	$x = 0$	NO
$y = -2x^2$	-2	↓	(0,0)	$x = 0$	NO
$y = -0.5x^2$	-0.5	↓	(0,0)	$x = 0$	NO

a. Sketch the graphs on the same axes. Label each parabola with its equation.

b. Describe how the value of  $a$  in  $y = ax^2$  changes the graph of

$y = x^2$ .

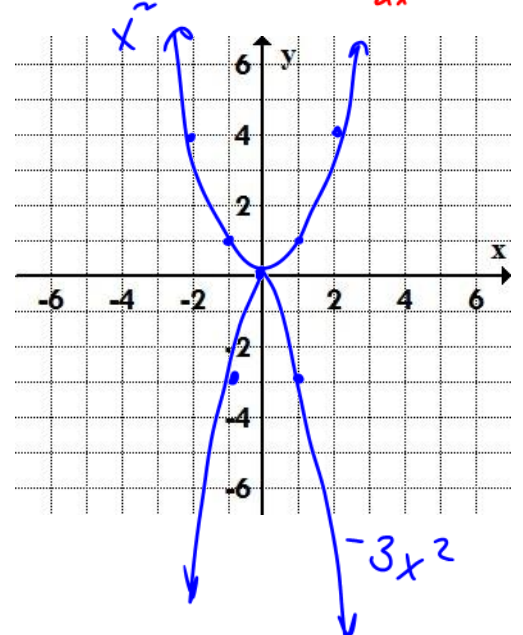
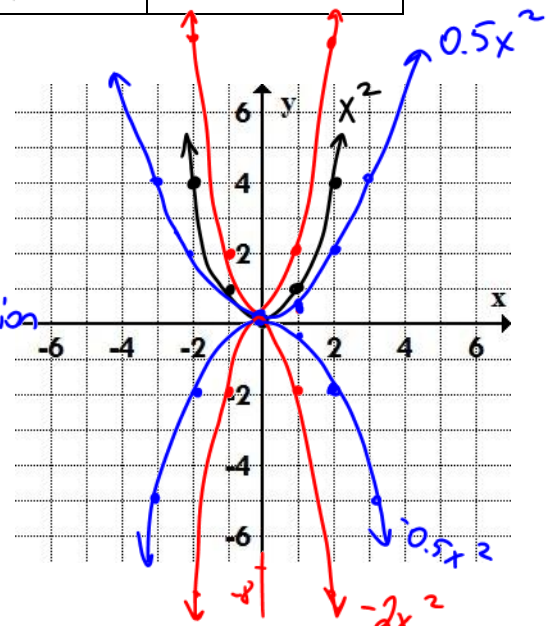
$a > 1$  vertical stretch  
 $0 < a < 1$  vertical compression

$a < 0$  vertical reflection in the "x" axis

c. What happens to the x-coordinates of all points on  $y = x^2$  when the function is changed to  $y = ax^2$ ? What happens to the y-coordinates?

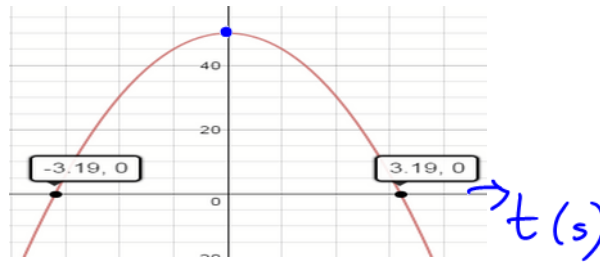
x remains the same, y coordinates get multiplied by a

d. Without using a graphing calculator, sketch the graph of  $y = -3x^2$



**Example** A stone is dropped from the top of a 50-m cliff above a river. Its height,  $y$ , in metres, above the water can be estimated using the relation  $y = -4.9x^2 + 50$ , where  $x$  is the time, in seconds.

- a. Graph the relation.



- b. Find the intercepts. What do they represent?

$$x_1 = -3.2 \quad x_2 = \underline{\underline{3.2}} \quad \text{how long it takes for the stone to reach the river.}$$

- c. How would the equation change if the stone were dropped from a 75-m cliff instead of a 50-m cliff?

$$y = \underline{\underline{-4.9x^2 + 75}}$$

- d. For what values of  $x$  is each equation valid?

$$x < 0 \quad \text{b/c time cannot be negative.}$$

Reflection/Summary: Summarize the effect that  $a$ ,  $h$ , and  $k$ , have on a parabola's:

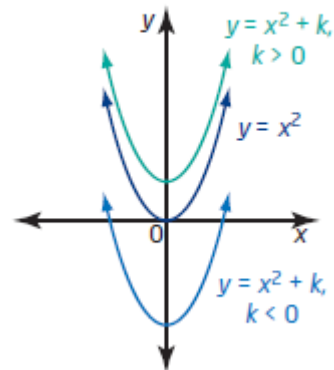
"x" does the opposite  
"y" does what it says

$$y = \pm a(x - h)^2 + k$$

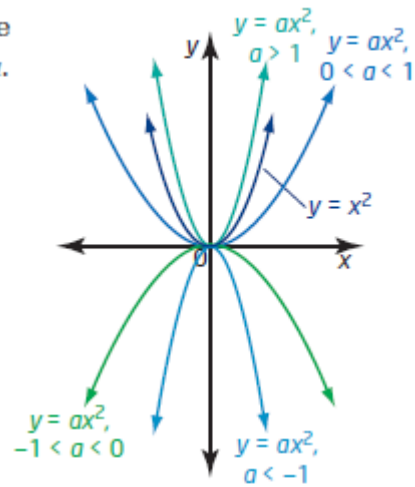
outside output "y"  
inside input "x"

**Key Concepts**

- To graph  $y = x^2 + k$ , translate the graph of  $y = x^2$  vertically  $k$  units.
  - If  $k > 0$ , then the graph is translated  $k$  units upward.
  - If  $k < 0$ , then the graph is translated  $k$  units downward.



- To graph  $y = ax^2$ , stretch or compress the graph of  $y = x^2$  vertically by a factor of  $a$ .
  - If  $a < 0$ , the parabola is reflected in the  $x$ -axis.
  - If  $a > 1$  or  $a < -1$ , then the graph is stretched vertically (narrows).
  - If  $-1 < a < 0$  or  $0 < a < 1$ , then the graph is compressed vertically (widens).



- To graph  $y = (x - h)^2$ , translate the graph of  $y = x^2$  horizontally  $h$  units.
  - If  $h > 0$ , then the graph is translated  $h$  units to the right.
  - If  $h < 0$ , then the graph is translated  $h$  units to the left.

