

Roots and Quadratic Equations

General Form of a Quadratic Equation is $\mathbf{ax^2 + bx + c = 0}$

If the roots of that quadratic equation are r_1 and r_2 , then $x = r_1$ or $x = r_2$. We can write the general form of a quadratic equation in the form of a product of two linear terms as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}(x - r_1)(x - r_2) &= 0 \\ \mathbf{x^2 - (r_1 + r_2)x + r_1r_2} &= \mathbf{0}\end{aligned}$$

By dividing the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ by \mathbf{a} , it can be rewritten as

$$x^2 + (b/a)x + c/a = 0$$

Comparing the coefficients in the two equations, we see that

1. $\mathbf{r_1 \times r_2 = c/a}$
2. $\mathbf{-(r_1 + r_2) = b/a}$ or $\mathbf{r_1 + r_2 = -b/a}$

In words, the product of the roots of a quadratic equation is c/a . The sum of the roots of a quadratic equation is $-b/a$

1. Without solving, find the sum and product of the roots of $x^2 + 7x + 12 = 0$.
2. Without solving, find the sum and product of the roots of $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$.
3. Without solving, find the sum and product of the roots of $x^2 - x - 30 = 0$.
4. Without solving, find the sum and product of the roots of $8x^2 - 2x - 3 = 0$.
5. Without solving, find the sum and product of the roots of $6x^2 + 13x + 5 = 0$.
6. Without solving, find the sum and product of the roots of $4x^2 = 23x - 15$
7. Find an equation whose roots are (-4) and -3 .
8. Find an equation whose roots are 6 and (-5) .
9. Find an equation whose roots are $1/4$ and $(-2/3)$.
10. Find an equation whose roots are $(-2/5)$ and $(-3/4)$.
11. Find the equation whose roots are $2 + \sqrt{3}$ and $2 - \sqrt{3}$.