Rewriting the Formula as a Function

 $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{n}) = 5\mathbf{n} - 1$

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f(n) = 5n - 1 or f(x) = 5x - 1
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Since I am adding a constant, we should clearly recognize the pattern as a linear function.

Using the function rule instead of the formula makes working with arithmetic sequences even easier. Now, if I want to find the 20th term of the sequence defined by the function, I merely substitute that into the function rule.

f(n) = 5n - 1 describes the sequence f(20) = 5(20) - 1f(20) = 99.