

Gold WILF : to find the nth term of a number sequence and apply this to find given terms.

Finding the Nth term



Here is Fernando's example;

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|----|
| Term Number (n) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Sequence | 2 | 5 | 8 | 11 |

The **difference** between each number is **3** so the rule (n^{th} term) will start with **$3n$** .

$3n$ as a sequence is 3 , 6 , 9 , 12

We have 2 , 5 , 8 , 11

So to get the numbers we need, we have to **subtract 1**. This must mean the full rule is:

$$3n - 1$$

For each of the following sequences;

- work out the next 3 terms,
- work out the n^{th} term,
- use the n^{th} term rule to work out the 20^{th} term.

- 3, 5, 7, 9 ...
- 9, 12, 15, 18 ...
- 7, 11, 15, 19 ...
- 10, 16, 22, 28 ...
- 1, 5, 9, 13 ...
- 4, 11, 18, 25 ...
- 2, 7, 12, 17 ...
- 4, 9, 14, 19 ...
- 7, 5, 3, 1 ...
- 16, 13, 10, 7 ...

Write down the first **five terms** of the sequence with the following n^{th} terms:

- $3n + 6$
- $2n - 3$
- $-2n + 1$
- $-5n + 12$