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Interval Notation

 ∞ means infinity. Infinity ∞ is NOT a number; you can not do arithmetic with ∞ .

Infinity ∞ is a concept that means "can grow large without bound"

 $-\infty$ "negative infinity" means "can grow large negative without bound.

We use ∞ as the right endpoint in interval notation when the interval has no number as its upper bound. We use $-\infty$ as the left endpoint in interval notation when the interval has no number as its lower bound.

Parentheses indicate that the endpoint of the interval is not included in the interval. Parentheses correspond to > and < symbols An "endpoint" of ∞ or –	Set Notation using Inequalities	Interval Notation
	{ x such that $x > -2$ }	(−2,∞)
	$\{ x \text{ such that } x < 0 \}$	(-∞, 0)
	$\{ x \text{ such that } 1 < x < 5 \}$	(1, 5)
	the set of all real numbers	$(-\infty,\infty)$
∞ always has a parentheses.		
Square Brackets indicate that the endpoint of the interval is included in the interval.	Set Notation using Inequalities	Interval Notation
	$\{ x \text{ such that } x \leq 5 \}$	(−∞,5]
	$\{ x \text{ such that } x \ge 7 \}$	[7,∞)
Square brackets correspond	{ x such that $-3 \le x \le 9$ }	[-3,9]
to \geq and \leq symbols		
one endpoint included and one endpoint excluded	Set Notation using Inequalities	Interval Notation
	$\{ x \text{ such that } -3 < x \le 9 \}$	(-3,9]
	$\{ x \text{ such that } -3 \le x < 9 \}$	[-3,9)
If a variable may be in one of several intervals, the intervals can be joined (united) using a union symbol U, which means OP methematically	Set Notation using Inequalities	Interval Notation
	$\{ x \text{ such that } x < -2 \text{ or } x > 2 \}$	$(-\infty, -2) \cup (2, \infty)$
	$\{x \text{ such that} 2 < x < 4 \text{ or } 7 < x < 9 \}$	[2,4)U(7,9]
	{ x such that	[2,4) U (8,∞)
OK mathematically	$2 \le x \le 4$ or $x \ge 8$ }	
A union symbol can be used	Set Notation using Inequalities	Interval Notation
to unite two or more	$\{x \text{ such that } x \neq 6 \}$	$(-\infty, 6) U(6, \infty)$
of a single number in	is the same as the set $\{x \text{ such that } x < 6 \text{ or } x > 6 \}$	
between them	{ x such that $x \neq -1$ and $x \neq 4$ } is	$(-\infty, -1)$ U $(-1, 4)$ U $(4, \infty)$
	the same as the set	
	{ x such that $x < -1$ or	
	-1 < x < 4 or x > 4	

The words "such that" mean "that satisfy the following condition or conditions" and are often denoted using the symbol | or :

Practice Problems for Interval Notation:

Express the following inequalities using interval notation:

1. {x such that $x \le -10$ }2. {x such that x < 3 }3. {x such that x > 6 }4. {x such that $x \ge -1/2$ }5. {x such that 2 < x < 5 }6. {x such that $-12 \le x \le -3$ }7. {x such that $-17 < x \le 24$ }8. {x such that $125 \le x < 400$ }9. {x such that $x \ne -0.40$ }10. {x : $x \ne -2$ and $x \ne 2$ }11. {x : x < -4 or $x \ge 3$ }12. {x : $x \le 7$ or 10 < x < 12) \bigcirc Roberta Bloom 2007