

Steps to Graph Parabolas:

Vertical Parabola $(x - h)^2 = 4p(y - k)$ or $y = \frac{1}{4p}(x - h)^2 + k$

- 1) Identify the vertex (h, k) and graph the point.
- 2) Find the value of p in the equation. (Hint: solve $4p =$)
- 3) Plot the focus point p units above the vertex.
- 4) Plot the directrix line p units below the vertex.
(Note: if p is negative, flip the focus to be below and the directrix above.)
- 5) Find two key points by counting $2p$ units to the right and left of the focus.
(Note: these will also be $2p$ units above/below the directrix.)
- 6) Graph the parabola through the vertex and two key points.

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Horizontal Parabola $x = \frac{1}{4p}(y - k)^2 + h$ or $(y - k)^2 = 4p(x - h)$

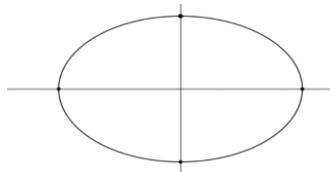
- 1) Identify the vertex (h, k) and graph the point.
- 2) Find the value of p in the equation. (Hint: solve $4p =$)
- 3) Plot the focus point p units to the right of the vertex.
- 4) Plot the directrix line p units to the left of the vertex.
(Note: if p is negative, flip the focus to be left and the directrix right.)
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Steps to Graph Horizontal Ellipses:

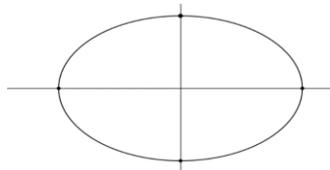
$$\frac{(x - h)^2}{a^2} + \frac{(y - k)^2}{b^2} = 1$$



- 1) Identify the center (h, k) and graph the point.
- 2) Identify a and b .
- 3) Count left and right a units from the center and mark the vertices.
- 4) Count up and down b units from the center and mark the co-vertices.
- 5) Draw the ellipse.
- 6) To find the foci: Calculate the length c using $c^2 = a^2 - b^2$. Count c units left and right of the center, and mark the points.

Steps to Graph Horizontal Ellipses:

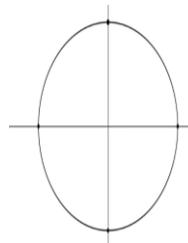
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Steps to Graph Vertical Ellipses:

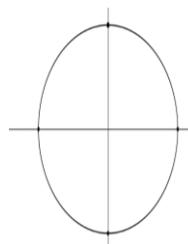
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- 1) Identify the center (h, k) and graph the point.
- 2) Identify a and b .
- 3) Count up and down a units from the center and mark the vertices.
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- 5) Draw the ellipse.
- 6) To find the foci: Calculate the length c using $c^2 = a^2 - b^2$. Count c units up and down from the center, and mark the points.

Steps to Graph Vertical Ellipses:

$$\frac{(x - h)^2}{b^2} + \frac{(y - k)^2}{a^2} = 1$$



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