

# NOTES ON EXPONENTIAL FUNCTIONS

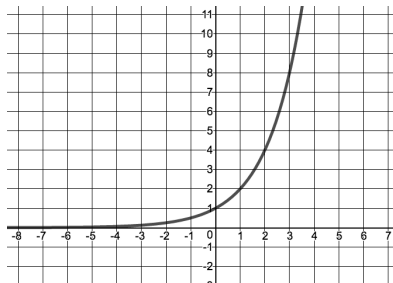
The general equation of an exponential function is  $y = C(b)^x$ . What makes it exponential is that the exponent is a variable. C and b are numbers.

Exponential functions are grouped into two main classes-growth and decay.

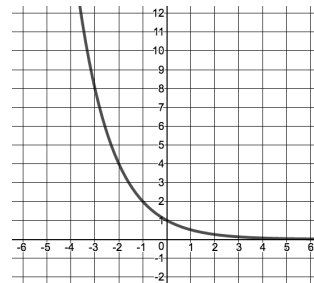
- In exponential growth,  $b > 1$ .
- In exponential decay,  $0 < b < 1$ .

Here are examples of two graphs of exponential functions.

Growth



Decay



Domain:  $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$

Range:  $y \in (0, \infty)$

x-intercept: None

y-intercept:  $(0, C)$



These can change if the equation has transformations.

Growth and decay rates are written as percents. It is  $1 - b$  (in decay) or  $b - 1$  (in growth), converted to a percent.

Growth and decay factors are written as whole numbers or decimals. It is the value of "b".