

$$y = x^2 - 3x$$

You're given $x=1$ and $\frac{dy}{dt}=5$

Find $\frac{dx}{dt}$

First observe that x is really a function of t . y is also a function of t . This means you can rewrite to clearly illustrate that x depends on t . Once you have it in this form, you can differentiate using the chain rule.

$$y(t) = x(t)^2 - 3x(t) \quad \text{rewrite this way}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 2x(t)\frac{dx}{dt} - 3\frac{dx}{dt} \quad \text{differentiate using the chain rule and isolate } \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = (2x(t) - 3)\frac{dx}{dt} \quad \text{factor } \frac{dx}{dt} \text{ from the parenthesis}$$

$$5 = (2(1) - 3)\frac{dx}{dt} \quad \text{replace } \frac{dy}{dt} \text{ with } 5, \text{ and } x(t) \text{ with } 1 \text{ as given in the statement of the problem}$$

$$5 = (2 - 3)\frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$5 = -1 \times \frac{dx}{dt} \quad 2 - 3 \text{ is } -1$$

$$-5 = \frac{dx}{dt} \quad \text{divide both sides by } -1 \text{ to get that } \frac{dx}{dt} = -5$$