

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

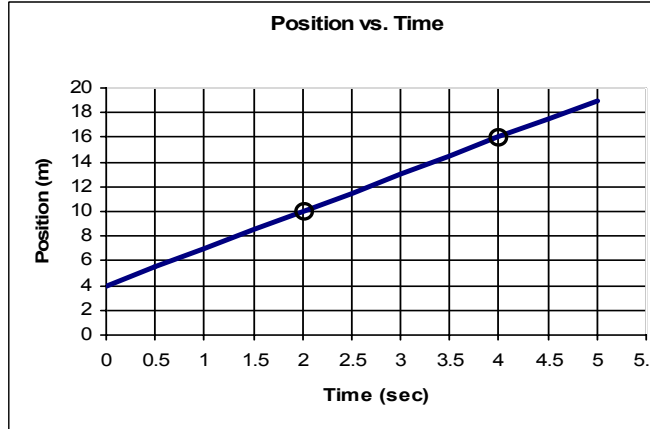
Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# How to Calculate Slope

**Step 1—**  
pick two good points.

A “good point” is where the line hits a “cross hair”.

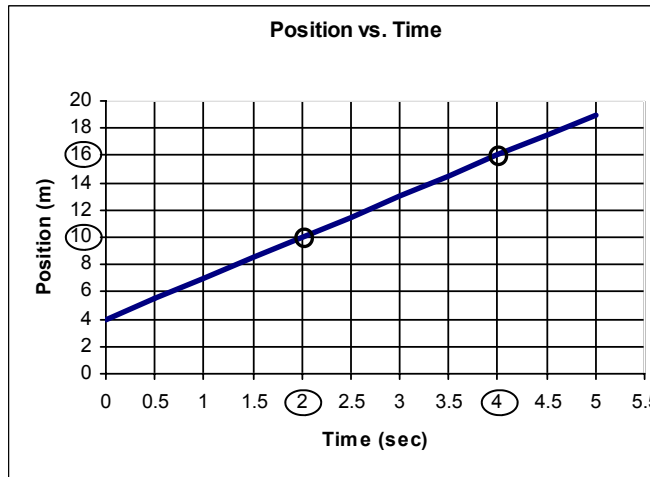
There are three good points on this line. Choice 2.



The third “good point” is at (0,4). Any two of these three points would give the same slope.

**Step 2—**  
Circle the x and y coordinates for both points.

Remember that the y coordinates are on the vertical (left) axis and the x coordinates are on the horizontal (bottom) axis.

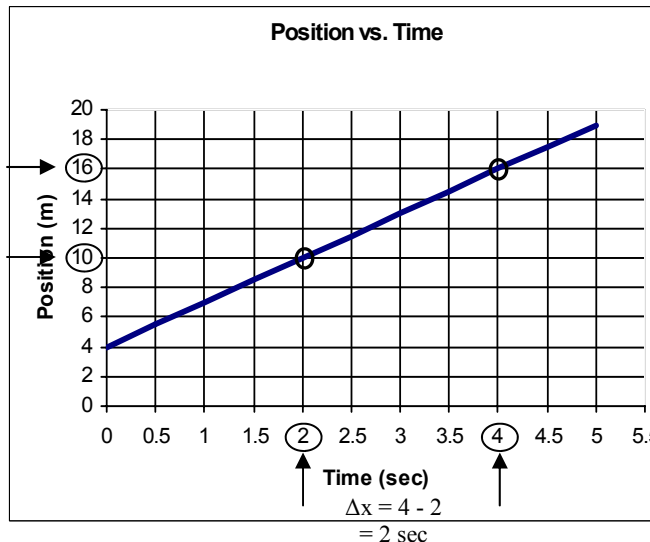


Be sure to go directly to the bottom and to the left. If you circle the wrong numbers, your slope will also be wrong.

**Step 3—**  
Find  $\Delta y$  and  $\Delta x$ .

$$\Delta y = 16 - 10 = 6 \text{ m}$$

$\Delta$  means “change of”, so find the change in y and change in x by subtraction.



You can also think of  $\Delta y$  as “how far is it between the two y coordinates.”

**Step 4—**  
Calculate slope.

$$\text{slope} = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{6 \text{ m}}{2 \text{ sec}} = \mathbf{3 \text{ m/s}}$$

**And remember that “m/s” means speed.**

**The slope of a Position vs. Time graph is SPEED.**