

Cell phones

Task

Let $f(t)$ be the number of people, in millions, who own cell phones t years after 1990. Explain the meaning of the following statements.

a. $f(10) = 100.3$

b. $f(a) = 20$

c. $f(20) = b$

d. $n = f(t)$



Commentary

This simple task assesses whether students can interpret function notation. The four parts of the task provide a logical progression of exercises for advancing understanding of function notation and how to interpret it in terms of a given context.

Solution

- a. The number of people who own cell phones in the year 2000 is 100,300,000.
- b. There are 20,000,000 people who own cell phones a years after 1990.
- c. There will be b million people who own cell phones in the year 2010.
- d. The number n is the number of people (in millions) who own cell phones t years after 1990.

