Exercise 8

For the following exercises, determine whether the functions are one-to-one.

$$f(x) = |x - 3|$$

Solution

To determine whether the given function is one-to-one, try to find its inverse. Switch x and y in the equation.

x = |y - 3|

Remove the absolute value sign on the right by placing \pm on the left side.

$$\pm x = y - 3$$

Add 3 to both sides.

$$3 \pm x = y$$

There are two possible formulas for the inverse function, 3 + x and 3 - x, which means the given function is not one-to-one.