Explicit Expressions and Recursive Processes - Step-by-Step Lesson

Write an explicit and recursive formula for the following sequences.

2, 4, 6, 8...

Explicit: _____

Recursive: _____



Explanation:

An explicit formula allows you to determine any term in a set sequence.

If we take a deep look at the set, we would see:

2	4	6	8	10 (predicted)
n = 1	n=2	n = 3	n = 4	n = 5

We can easily see that for each successive number the term number (n) multiplies by 2. The formula can be represented as:

$$a_n\,=\,2n$$

A recursive formula is a something that we can use to determine the next term in a set or number sequence. It tells us how each term is connected to the next term.

The difference between each term is 2 ($a_1 = 2$). We can display this in a recursive formula using the following:

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 2$$

 $a_n = \text{term number}$ $a_{n-1} = \text{the term before the n term}$

