Worksheet 1. What You Need to Know About Motion Along the *x*-axis (Part 1)

In discussing motion, there are three closely related concepts that you need to keep straight. These are:

If $x(t)$ represents the position of a particle along the x-axis at any time t, then the following statements are true.

1. "Initially" means when _____ = 0.
2. "At the origin" means _____ = 0.
3. "At rest" means _____ = 0.
4. If the velocity of the particle is positive, then the particle is moving to the _____.
5. If the velocity of the particle is _____, then the particle is moving to the left.
6. To find average velocity over a time interval, divide the change in _____ by the change in time.
7. Instantaneous velocity is the velocity at a single moment (instant!) in time.
8. If the acceleration of the particle is positive, then the _____ is increasing.
9. If the acceleration of the particle is _____, then the velocity is decreasing.
10. In order for a particle to change direction, the _____ must change signs.
11. One way to determine total distance traveled over a time interval is to find the sum of the absolute values of the differences in position between all resting points. Here's an example: If the position of a particle is given by:

$$x(t) = \frac{1}{3}t^3 - t^2 - 3t + 4,$$

find the total distance traveled on the interval $0 \le t \le 6$.

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Worksheet 2. Sample Practice Problems for the Topic of Motion (Part 1)

Example 1 (numerical).

The data in the table below give selected values for the velocity, in meters/minute, of a particle moving along the x-axis. The velocity v is a differentiable function of time t.

Time t (min)	0	2	5	6	8	12
Velocity $v(t)$ (meters/min)	-3	2	3	5	7	5

1. At $t = 0$, is the particle moving to the right or to the left? Explain your answer.

2. Is there a time during the time interval $0 \le t \le 12$ minutes when the particle is at rest? Explain your answer.

3. Use data from the table to find an approximation for $v'(10)$ and explain the meaning of $v'(10)$ in terms of the motion of the particle. Show the computations that lead to your answer and indicate units of measure.

4. Let $a(t)$ denote the acceleration of the particle at time t. Is there guaranteed to be a time $t = c$ in the interval $0 \le t \le 12$ such that $a(c) = 0$? Justify your answer.