

Adding Infinite Sequences In The Form: $a + \frac{a}{b} + \frac{a}{b^2} + \dots$

A. Adding sequences of this nature reduces to the following:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{a}{b^{i-1}} = a + \frac{a}{b} + \frac{a}{b^2} + \dots = \frac{a}{1-r}$$

where a is the first term of the sequence and r is whatever a is being multiplied by, (in this case $1/b$).

B. Examples:

Ex [1] $2 + 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$.

- In this example 'a' is 2 since this is the first term and 'b' is $\frac{1}{2}$ since every term is being multiplied by $\frac{1}{2}$.
- According to the formula this is equal to $\frac{2}{(1 - 1/2)}$ which equals $\frac{2}{(1/2)}$ which equals 4.
- The answer is 4.

Ex [2] $6 + 4 + \frac{8}{3} + \dots = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$.

- In this example 'a' is 6 and 'b' is $\frac{2}{3}$.
- According to the formula this is equal to $\frac{6}{(1 - 2/3)} = \frac{6}{(1/3)} = 18$.
- The answer is 18.

Ex [3] $12 - 4 + \frac{4}{3} - \dots = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$.

- In this example 'a' is 12 and 'b' is $-\frac{1}{3}$.
- According to the formula this is equal to $\frac{12}{(1 - (-1/3))} = \frac{12}{(4/3)} = 9$.
- The answer is 9.