

"Linear" describes something that is in or along a line, relating to length, resembling a line, or having one dimension. The term can also refer to a style of thought that progresses sequentially, as in a story from beginning to end, or to a mathematical relationship where the output is directly proportional to the input. Additionally, it can describe a type of project management tool, such as the application Linear by Linear.app, which helps teams track and manage their work.

In general use

- Resembling a line: "Linear" often describes something that is straight or consists of a line or lines. For example, a "linear feature" like a wall or road is easy to see from the air.
- Sequential progression: It can also refer to events or thoughts that follow one another in direct order. A story told in a "linear way" progresses from start to finish.

In science and mathematics

- One dimension: In a scientific context, a "linear measurement" involves a single dimension, such as length.
- First degree in math: In mathematics, "linear" refers to a linear equation or function, which is of the first degree.

In specific applications

- Technology: The term can refer to electronic circuits or amplifiers where the output is directly proportional to the input.
- Project management tool: "Linear" is also the name of a popular software tool designed for product teams, offering project and issue tracking and management.

Etymology

- The word "linear" comes from the Latin word linearis, meaning "pertaining to or resembling a line".