Recall the number 1 is the multiplicative identity for any real number \( a \). That is: \( a \cdot 1 = a \), in other words, the product of a number and the multiplicative identity is the number. Well, our square matrices also have multiplicative identities too. The matrix identity is called, the **multiplicative identity matrix**; it is equivalent to “1” in matrix terminology. So, a matrix multiplied by I is equal to the matrix.

The identity matrix of a 2x2 and a 3x3 square matrix are:

\[
I_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad I_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}
\]

Note: the identity matrix is Identified with a capital I and a subscript indicating the dimensions; it consists of a diagonal of ones and the corners are filled in with zeros. Its dimensions are square.

**Example:** Multiply \( A \) by the identity matrix

\[
\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \cdot 1 + 4 \cdot 0 & 3 \cdot 0 + 4 \cdot 1 \\ -2 \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 0 & -2 \cdot 0 + 2 \cdot 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}
\]

**Inverses:** A number times its inverse (A.K.A. reciprocal) is equal to 1 so is a matrix times its inverse equal to “1.” When two matrices are multiplied, and the product is the identity matrix, we say the two matrices are **inverses**.

Now we can set about to find inverses and verify if a matrix is an inverse of another.

It is a process, a pattern to follow and not that bad.

**Example:** Is \( B \) the inverse of \( A \)?

\[
A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}
\]

If \( B \) is the inverse then \( AB \) should equal the identity matrix, does it?

\[
\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot -1 & 2 \cdot -3 + 3 \cdot 2 \\ 1 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot -1 & 1 \cdot -3 + 2 \cdot 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}
\]

Yes, \( B \) is the inverse of \( A \)

The notation for the inverse of a matrix is the matrix letter identity and a \(-1\) superscript, that is: \( A^{-1} \). In other words:

\[
A A^{-1} = A^{-1} A = I \quad \text{(Remember I, identity matrix, is the “1” for matrices)}
\]

Well, how do we find the inverse? We do scalar multiplication with the value of \( \frac{1}{\det A} \) times a mixed-up version of matrix A!! Look below to see what I mean, it is not that bad.....

For matrix \( A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \) the inverse is: \( A^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det A} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix} \)

Note: \( \det A \) in the denominator. Determinants **cannot** be equal to 0 as \( \frac{1}{\det A} \) would be undefined. So, a matrix with a determinant of 0 has no inverse and is called a **singular matrix**.

**Example:** Find the inverse of the matrix,
Well, what good is an inverse matrix? Yesterday we discussed how inverse matrices are used in data encryption. That application involves algebra and a process that uses the inverse of a matrix to solve a system of equations. This process is in fact quite similar to solving an equation like $5x = 20$. To solve for $x$ we multiply each side by $1/5$, the inverse of 5.

To solve a matrix equation, $AX = B$ for $X$, you simply multiply each side by $A^{-1}$

1. $A^{-1}AX = A^{-1}B$, so we are left with $X$ on the left side which is what we are solving for. So: $X = A^{-1}B$
2. WARNING!!! You must always keep the order of the matrices uniform! $A^{-1}B$ is NOT the same as $BA^{-1}$!

Example: Solve the matrix equation for $X$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 2 \\ 3 & -4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$det\ A = 8 - 6 = 2$$

$$A^{-1} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} -4 & -2 \\ -3 & -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -1 \\ -3/2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

1. verify that $det\ A \neq 0$
2. set up inverse equation (note: switch $a$ and $d$, and make $c$ and $b$ opposite sign)

As with 2x2 matrices, when we multiply a 3x3 matrix with its inverse, we will get the identity matrix, $I_3$. So we can also show that a 3x3 matrix is the inverse of another 3x3 matrix in the same fashion as our 2x2 example.

The methods for finding 2x2 inverses also holds true for 3x3 inverses, BUT we use a calculator!!!
**Example:** Solve the matrix equation:

\[ A^{-1}AX = A^{-1}B \]

\[ X = A^{-1}B \]

Find \( A^{-1} \) using the calculator

**Solution:**

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 0 & 2 \\
1 & 3 & -2 \\
1 & -2 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
6 \\
-11 \\
8
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
.1 & .4 & .6 \\
.3 & .2 & -.2 \\
.5 & 0 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
= A^{-1}
\]

\[
X = \begin{bmatrix}
.1 & .4 & .6 \\
.3 & .2 & -.2 \\
.5 & 0 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
6 \\
-11 \\
8
\end{bmatrix}
= \begin{bmatrix}
1 \\
-2 \\
3
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[ A^{-1} \times B = X \]

*To keep your thoughts straight, see what you are doing, and what needs to be done next YOU MUST SHOW YOUR STEPS!*

**PRACTICE**

1. **Solve:**

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
7 & 5 \\
3 & 2
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
-9 \\
-4
\end{bmatrix}
\]

2. **Determine if the matrix has an inverse:**

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
1 & 4 \\
1 & 3
\end{bmatrix}
\]

3. **Are the matrices multiplicative inverses?**

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
2 & .5 \\
5 & 1
\end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix}
-2 & 1 \\
10 & -4
\end{bmatrix}
\]

4. **Solve:**

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 0 & 2 \\
1 & 3 & -2 \\
1 & -2 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\begin{bmatrix}
0 \\
-6 \\
19
\end{bmatrix}
\]