Exercise 9

For the following exercises, points P(4,2) and Q(x,y) are on the graph of the function $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$. Use the value in the preceding exercise to find the equation of the tangent line at point P.

Solution

The slope of the tangent line to f at x = 4 is 0.25, and this line passes through (4, 2).

$$y - 2 = 0.25(x - 4)$$

 $y - 2 = 0.25x - 1$
 $y = 0.25x + 1$

Below is the graph of y = f(x) and the tangent line at x = 4.

