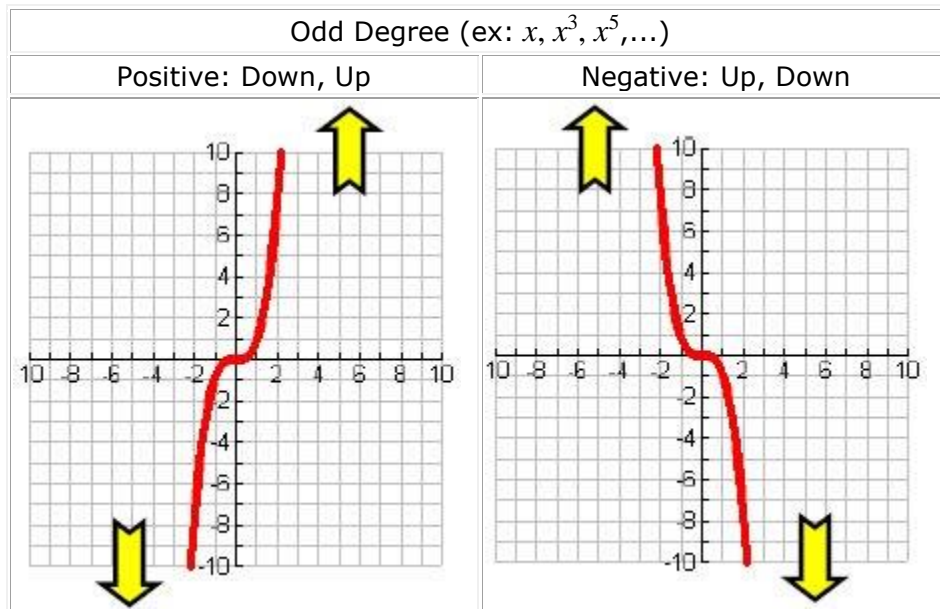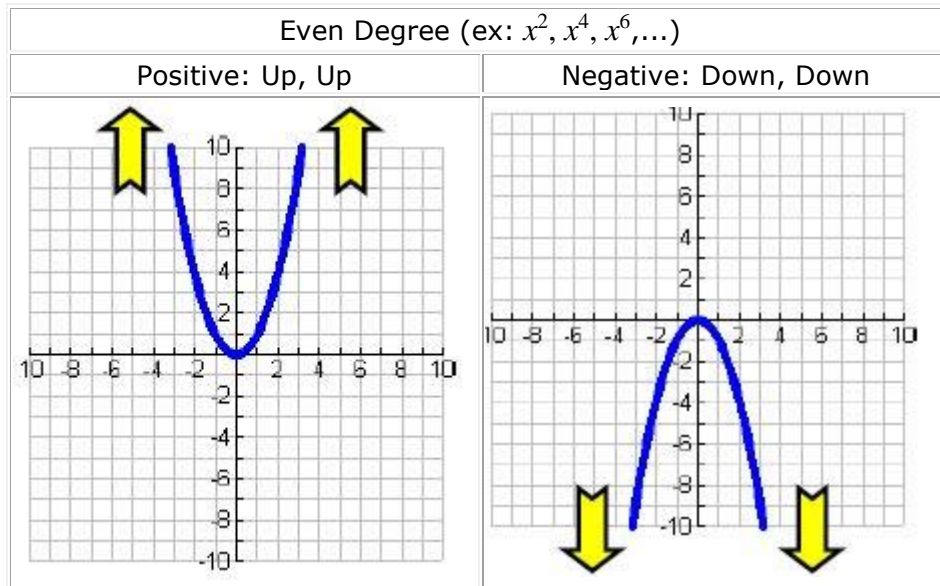The end behavior of a graph is what happens at the far left and the far right. Two factors determine the end behavior: positive or negative, and whether the degree is even or odd.

For the examples below, we will use x^2 and x^3, but the end behavior will be the same for any even degree or any odd degree. However, keep in mind that what happens "in the middle" will change...

Even Degree (ex: x^2, x^4, x^6,...)	
Positive: Up, Up	Negative: Down, Down

Odd Degree (ex: x, x^3, x^5,...)	
Positive: Down, Up	Negative: Up, Down

Knowing the general shape and end behavior is an important step towards understanding *polys*. With a little practice, you will know how to perform all of the operations associated with polynomials. Take a look at how to perform polynomials division.