

In general

$r = a \cos \theta$ Circle center $(\frac{a}{2}, 0)$ Radius: $\frac{ a }{2}$	$r = a \sin \theta$ Circle center $(\frac{a}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$ Radius: $\frac{ a }{2}$
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$r = 10 \cos \theta$ Center: $(5, 0)$ Radius: 5
 $r = -6 \cos \theta$ Center: $(-3, 0)$ Radius: 3
 $r = 4 \sin \theta$ Center: $(2, \frac{\pi}{2})$ Radius: 2

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Why does the equation $r = a \cos \theta$ correspond to a circle centered at $(\frac{a}{2}, 0)$ and radius $\frac{|a|}{2}$?

$x = r \cos \theta$
 $y = r \sin \theta$
 $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$
 $\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x}$

$r = 4 \cos \theta$
 $r^2 = 4r \cos \theta$
 $x^2 + y^2 = 4x$
 $x^2 - 4x + 4 + y^2 = 4$
 $(x-2)^2 + y^2 = 4$ Center: $(2, 0)$ Radius: 2

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$r = a \cos \theta$
 $r^2 = ar \cos \theta$
 $x^2 + y^2 = ax$

$x^2 - ax + (\frac{a}{2})^2 + y^2 = 0 + (\frac{a}{2})^2$
 $x^2 - ax + \frac{a^2}{4} + y^2 = \frac{a^2}{4}$
 $(x - \frac{a}{2})^2 + y^2 = \frac{a^2}{4}$

Center: $(\frac{a}{2}, 0)$
Radius: $\frac{|a|}{2}$

$r = a \sin \theta$; $r^2 = ar \sin \theta$; $x^2 + y^2 = ay$
 $x^2 + y^2 - ay = 0$; $x^2 + y^2 - ay + (\frac{a}{2})^2 = (\frac{a}{2})^2$
 $x^2 + (y - \frac{a}{2})^2 = \frac{a^2}{4}$ Center: $(0, \frac{a}{2})$ Radius: $\frac{|a|}{2}$

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$r = a + b \cos \theta$
 $r^2 = ar + br \cos \theta$
 $x^2 + y^2 = a\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} + bx$

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