

## The **Coordinate** or **Cartesian** Graph

This graph is divided by the **x and y axis** to create 4 **quadrants**. The x axis is a **horizontal** axis and the y axis is a **vertical** axis.

The **quadrants** are numbered by Roman Numerals **I – IV**.

The point of intersection of the x and y axis (where x and y meet on the graph) is called the point of **origin**. We can identify this point as an **ordered pair** or with the **coordinates** of  $(0,0)$ . It is very important to remember that ordered pairs are written in the **form  $(x, y)$**  and the parenthesis are always present to designate the coordinates of a point. Some of the students tell me they remember the order that we plot a point or identify as the x value first and then the y value because x comes before y. Others have told me that you always do the x first and then the y because it is like using a ladder. First you move the ladder over and then you climb up or down. Whatever helps you remember that when you see an ordered pair, the first value in the parenthesis tells you the change or shift from 0 on the x axis and the second value in the parenthesis tells you the change or shift on the y axis.

