

Warm-up Solve the following equations then check your answers:

a) $5x + 2 = 2x + 11$

$$\begin{aligned} & -2x \quad -2x \\ \Rightarrow & 5x - 2x + 2 = 2x - 2x + 11 \\ & 3x + 2 = 11 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & -2 \quad -2 \\ & 3x = 9 \Rightarrow x = 3 \end{aligned}$$

5x c) $\frac{2}{5x} = -4$

$$\begin{aligned} 2 &= -20x \\ \frac{2}{-20} &= \frac{-20x}{-20} \\ \boxed{-\frac{1}{10}} &= x \end{aligned}$$

check:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2}{5(-\frac{1}{10})} &= \frac{2}{-\frac{5}{10}} \\ &= 2 \div -\frac{5}{10} = 2 \cdot -\frac{10}{5} \\ &= -\frac{20}{5} = -4 \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

b) $\frac{6}{5}x - 3 = -5$

$$+3 \quad +3$$

$$\frac{6}{5}x = -2 \cdot 5$$

$$\frac{6x}{6} = \frac{-10}{6} \Rightarrow x = -\frac{10}{6} = \boxed{-\frac{5}{3}}$$

d) $\frac{3x}{2} = \frac{5x}{6} + 1$

$$\left(\frac{3x}{2} - \frac{5x}{6} = 1\right) \cdot 6$$

$$9x - 5x = 6$$

$$4x = 6 \Rightarrow x = \frac{6}{4} = \boxed{\frac{3}{2}}$$

check

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{6}{5} \cdot \left(-\frac{5}{3}\right) - 3 &= -2 - 3 \\ &= -5 \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

Word Problem Vocabulary

When we solve word problems, the most important (and difficult) step is to turn the word problem into an equation. Below are common phrases and what they look like as equations.

The \oplus sum of a number and 4 $x + 4$

Six \oplus more than a number $x + 6$

Two \oplus added to a number $2 + x$

A number \oplus increased by ten $x + 10$

Eight \otimes times a number $8x$

Fifteen \div percent of a number $0.15x$

Double a number $2x$

The \otimes product of a number and four $4x$

Seven \ominus less than a number $x - 7$

Nine \ominus minus a number $9 - x$

A number \ominus decreased by 5 $x - 5$

Half a number $x/2$

The \div quotient of a number and six $\frac{x}{6}$

The \div quotient of five and a number $\frac{5}{x}$

$$\frac{3x \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 3} - \frac{5x}{6} = 1$$

$$\frac{9x}{6} - \frac{5x}{6} = 1$$

$$\frac{9x - 5x}{6} = 1$$

$$6 \cdot \frac{4x}{6} = 1 \cdot 6$$

$$4x = 6 \Rightarrow x = \frac{6}{4} = \boxed{\frac{3}{2}}$$

Tips for solving word problems

1. Highlight the parts of the question with important information (like the phrases on the last page)
2. Define a variable (something you don't know but you want to solve for)
3. Setup an equation you can solve, then solve it ← linear
4. Relate your answer for x back to what the question is asking for. Check it if you can!

Ex 1 The sum of 3 consecutive odd numbers is 51. Find the numbers.

in a row next to each other

Ans: 15, 17, 19

$x = 1^{st} \text{ number}$

$2^{nd} = x + 2 \Rightarrow x + (x+2) + (x+4) = 51$

$3^{rd} = x + 4$

$3x + 6 = 51$
 $3x = 45 \Rightarrow x = 15$

Ex 2 A father has a son that is one-third his age plus 2. If you subtract their ages, you get 28. How old is each person?

28. How old is each person?

Dad's - Son's

Ans: Dad 45, Son 17

$x = \text{father's age}$

$\Rightarrow x - \left(\frac{x}{3} + 2\right) = 28$

Son's age = $\frac{x}{3} + 2$

$\left(x - \frac{x}{3} - 2 = 28\right) \cdot 3$

Son: $\frac{45}{3} + 2 = 15 + 2 = 17$

$3x - x - 6 = 84 \Rightarrow 2x - 6 = 84 \Rightarrow 2x = 90$

Ex 3 A 87 cm piece of wood is cut into 3 pieces. The second piece is 60% of the length of the first piece. The third piece is twice the length of the first piece minus 3. What is the length of each piece?

$x = 1^{st} \text{ piece}$

$2^{nd} = 0.6x$

$3^{rd} = (2x - 3)$

$\Rightarrow 87 = x + 0.6x + (2x - 3) \Rightarrow 90 = 3.6x$

$87 = x + \frac{6}{10}x + 2x - 3$

$\frac{90}{3.6} = x$

$(90 = 3x + \frac{6}{10}x) \cdot 10$

$x = 25$

$900 = 30x + 6x$

Ans: 1st 25, 2nd 15, 3rd 47 = 87 ✓

$900 = 36x$

$\frac{900}{36} = x = 25$

$2^{nd} = 25 \cdot 0.6 = 15$

$3^{rd} = 25 \cdot 2 - 3 = 47$