

Solve  $2x=8$

1. Notice that 2 is multiplying  $x$ . The inverse or opposite operation is division. So divide both sides by 2.

$$\frac{2x}{2} = \frac{8}{2}$$

2. Simplify the step above by noting that  $\frac{2}{2} = 1$  so in front of the  $x$  is now the number 1.

$$1x = 4$$

3. It is convention to write  $1x$  as just  $x$ .

So the final result is  $x=4$

4. Now you can confirm that this is the correct value of  $x$  by replacing  $x$  with 4 and showing the left side equals the right side. This confirms that  $x=4$  is the correct solution.

$$2(4) = 8$$

Solve  $3x=9$

Solve  $x - 4 = 10$

1. Because 4 is being subtracted from  $x$ , we reverse this operation by adding 4 to both sides.

$$x - 4 + 4 = 10 + 4$$

2. Because  $-4+4=0$ , all that remains on the left side is  $x$ .

$$x = 10 + 4$$

3. Because  $10+4=14$ , we can conclude that  $x=14$  is the solution.

4. To check, we can replace  $x$  with 14, and confirm that the left side equals the right side. This confirms that  $x=14$  is the correct value.

$$14 - 4 = 10$$

$$10 = 10$$

Solve  $x+4=12$

Solve  $2x + 4 = 8$

1. You can begin by subtracting 4 from both sides of the equation.

$$2x + 4 - 4 = 8 - 4$$

2. Because  $4-4=0$ , all that remains on the left side is  $2x$ .

$$2x = 8 - 4$$

3. Because  $8-4=4$ , all that remains on the right side is 4.

$$2x = 4$$

4. Because 2 is multiplying  $x$ , the inverse operation is division. So divide both sides by 2.

$$\frac{2x}{2} = \frac{4}{2}$$

5. Because  $\frac{2}{2} = 1$  you can conclude that  $1x=2$

6. It's convention to write just  $x$  rather than  $1x$ , so write  $x=2$ .

7. To check, replace  $x$  with 2, and show that the left side equal 8. Therefore we can conclude that  $x=2$  is the correct value of  $x$ .

$$2(2) + 4 = 4 + 4 = 8$$

Solve  $3x-2=7$

Solve  $2x+4=8$

1. We can also solve this equation by first dividing by 2.

We can do this because 2 is a common factor of 2, 4 and 8.

Below, you see 2 written as 2 times 1, 4 as 2 times 2 and 8 as 2 times 4.

$$2 \cdot 1x + 2 \cdot 2 = 2 \cdot 4$$

2. Divide both sides of the equation by 2, and cross off matching 2's.

$$\frac{2 \cdot 1 \cdot x}{2} + \frac{2 \cdot 2}{2} = \frac{2 \cdot 4}{2}$$


3. At this point, you have the equivalent equation  $1x+2=4$

4. Now simply subtract 2 from both sides, getting  $1x+2-2=4-2$

5. This turns into  $1x=2$

6. Finally, it's convention to write  $1x$  as just  $x$ , so  $x=2$  is the solution, as before.

Solve  $3x+6=9$  using the method outlined above.

Solve  $2x+4x=12$

1. First add the two terms on the left side, getting

$$6x = 12$$

2. Once you have the two terms added, divide both sides by 6.

$$\frac{6x}{6} = \frac{12}{6}$$

3. Because  $\frac{6}{6} = 1$  in front of  $x$  you have 1, so at this point we have

$$1x = 2$$

4. Lastly, because it's convention to write  $x$  rather than  $1x$ , you can write

$$x = 2$$

5. To confirm this value of  $x$  is the correct one, replace  $x$  with 2 in the original equation, and show the left and right sides are equal.

$$2 \cdot 2 + 4 \cdot 2 = 4 + 8 = 12$$

So we can be confident that  $x=2$  is the correct solution.

Solve  $3x+2x=10$  using the method outlined above.

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$$\text{Solve } 2x+5x+8x=15$$

1. First, as in the example above, add the terms on the left side.

$$15x = 15$$

2. Now divide both sides by 15, remembering that  $\frac{15}{15} = 1$

$$\frac{15x}{15} = \frac{15}{15}$$

3. So at this point we have  $1x=1$ . Because it's convention to write  $x$  instead of  $1x$ , we then have  $x=1$  as the solution.

4. To confirm, replace  $x$  with 1 in the original equation and show that the left and right sides are equal.

$$2(1) + 5(1) + 8(1) = 2 + 5 + 8 = 7 + 8 = 15$$

This confirms that 1 is the correct value of  $x$ .

Solve  $6x+4x+4x=20$  using the method outlined above.

$$\text{Solve } 2x+3x+5=20$$

1. Gather like terms on the left first.

$$5x + 5 = 20$$

2. Subtract 5 from both sides.

$$5x + 5 - 5 = 20 - 5$$

3. Simplify the steps above. Because  $5-5=0$ , all that remains on the left is  $5x$ , and the right side  $20-5=15$

$$5x = 15$$

4. Because 5 is multiplying  $x$ , divide both sides by 5. Division is the inverse operation. Remember that

$$\frac{5x}{5} = \frac{15}{5} \quad 1x = 3$$

$$\frac{5}{5} = 1$$

5. It's convention to write  $1x$  as  $x$ , so just write  $x=3$  as the solution.

6. To check, replace  $x$  with 3 and show the left and right sides are equal. Always use the original equation to check.

$$2(3) + 3(3) + 5 = 6 + 9 + 5 = 15 + 5 = 20$$

So we can feel confident that  $x=3$  really does solve the equation.

Solve  $3x+4x+6=20$  using the method outlined above.

Solve  $2(x+4)=10$

1. Because 2 is multiplying  $x+4$ , divide both sides by 2.

$$\frac{2(x+4)}{2} = \frac{10}{2}$$

2. Cancel the 2's on the left side and write 5 for  $\frac{10}{2}$

$$\frac{\cancel{2}(x+4)}{\cancel{2}} = 5$$

3. At this point, you have  $x+4=5$  left. Subtract 4 from both sides.

$$x + 4 - 4 = 5 - 4$$

4. Because  $4-4=0$ , on the left you have only  $x$  left, and the right is  $5-4=1$ .  
So we can feel confident that  $x=1$  is the solution.

5. To check, replace  $x$  with with 1, and show that the left and right sides are equal.  
Always use the original equation to check. This shows that  $x=1$  is the correct solution.

$$2(1 + 4) = 2(5) = 10$$

Solve  $3(x-2)=9$  using the procedure outlined above.



Solve  $2(x+4)=10$  by using the distributive property.

1. Distribute the 2 on the left into the parenthesis.

$$2 \cdot x + 2 \cdot 4 = 10$$

2. Simplify the left side by performing the multiplications.

$$2x + 8 = 10$$

3. Subtract 8 from from both sides.

$$2x + 8 - 8 = 10 - 8$$

4. Because  $8-8=0$ , only  $2x$  is left on the left.

On the right, you have  $10-8$ , which is 2.

$$2x = 2$$

5. Because 2 is multiplying  $x$ , divide both sides by 2.

$$\frac{2x}{2} = \frac{2}{2} \quad \text{Remember that} \quad \frac{2}{2} = 1$$

$$1x = 1$$

6. Since it's convention to write  $x$  instead of  $1x$ , write  $x=1$  as the solution.

Solve  $3(x-2)=9$  using the method outlined above.

Solve  $3-2(x+5)=8$

1. Distribute -2 into the parenthesis.

$$3 - 2 \cdot x - 2 \cdot 5 = 8$$

2. Simplify the left side by doing the multiplications.

$$3 - 2x - 10 = 8$$

3. Simplify the left side further by gathering like terms.

$$3 - 10 - 2x = 8$$

$$-7 - 2x = 8$$

4. Add 7 to both sides and simplify.

$$-7 + 7 - 2x = 8 + 7$$

$$-2x = 15$$

5. Because -2 is multiplying x, divide both sides by -2.

$$\frac{-2x}{-2} = \frac{15}{-2}$$

$$x = -7.5$$

Remember that  $\frac{-2}{-2} = 1$

Solve  $4-3(x-2)=7$  using the method outlined above.

Solve  $2(x-4)+3(x-5)=10$

1. Distribute 2 into  $x-4$  and distribute 3 into  $x-5$

$$2x - 2 \cdot 4 + 3x - 3 \cdot 5 = 10$$

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2. Perform the multiplications.

$$2x - 8 + 3x - 15 = 10$$

3. Gather like terms on the left side.

$$2x + 3x - 8 - 15 = 10$$

$$5x - 23 = 10$$

4. Add 23 to both sides to reverse the operation of subtraction.

$$5x - 23 + 23 = 10 + 23$$

$$5x = 33$$

5. Divide both sides by 5 to reverse the operation of multiplication by 5.

$$\frac{5x}{5} = \frac{33}{5} \quad \text{Remember that} \quad \frac{5}{5} = 1$$

$$x = \frac{33}{5}$$

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Solve  $3(x-2)+2(x-4)=15$  by following the method outlined above.

Solve  $x-1=-x$

1. Rewrite the equation as  $1x-1=-1x$ . This way you can clearly see that the coefficient on  $x$  on the right side is  $-1$ .
2. Add  $1x$  to both sides of the equation. This will put all the  $x$ 's on the left.

$$1x - 1 + 1x = -1x + 1x$$

3.  $1x$  and  $1x$  is  $2x$ , so now we have the equation shown below.

$$2x - 1 = 0 \quad \text{remember that } -1x+1x=0$$

4. Add  $1$  to both sides.

$$2x - 1 + 1 = 1$$

5. Because  $-1+1=0$  on the left, all that remains is  $2x$  on the left.

$$2x = 1$$

6. Because  $2$  is multiplying  $x$ , divide both sides by  $2$ .

$$\frac{2x}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{1}{2}$$

7. To check, replace  $x$  with  $\frac{1}{2}$  in the original equation, and show that the left side is equal to the right side.

$$\frac{1}{2} - 1 = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{2} = \frac{-1}{2} \quad \text{this is the left side}$$

$$-1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{-1}{2} \quad \text{this is the right side}$$

Solve  $-x+1=x$  using the steps outlined above.

Solve  $2x-1=x$

1. Rewrite to show the coefficient of 1 on the x on the right.

$$2x - 1 = 1x$$

2. Subtract  $1x$  from both sides.

$$2x - 1x - 1 = 1x - 1x$$

3. Simplify the step above. Remember that  $1x-1x=0$

$$1x - 1 = 0$$

4. Add 1 to both sides to reverse subtraction.

$$1x - 1 + 1 = 0 + 1$$

5. Because  $-1+1=0$ , on the left we have only  $1x$

$$1x = 1$$

6. Because it's convention to write  $x$  instead of  $1x$ , write  $x=1$ .

7. To check, replace  $x$  with 1 on the left and right sides, and show they're equal in value.

$$2(1) - 1 = 1$$

$$2 - 1 = 1$$

$$1 = 1$$

Solve  $3x-2=4x$  using the method outlined above

Solve  $x-1=2x+4$

1. Subtract  $2x$  from both sides in order to get all the variable terms on the left.

$$x - 1 - 2x = 2x - 2x + 4$$

2.  $2x-2x=0$ , so on the right we have only 4 left.

$$x - 1 - 2x = 4$$

3. On the left, write  $x$  as  $1x$  and subtract  $2x$  from it.

$$1x - 2x - 1 = 4$$

4.  $1x-2x=-1x$ , so now we have the equation below.

$$-1x - 1 = 4$$

5. Now add 1 to both sides. This gives a 5 on the right.

$$-1x = 5$$

6. Now divide both sides by  $-1$ .

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

7. Remember that  $\frac{-1}{-1} = 1$  so that we have  $1x=-5$ .

$$1x = -5 \quad \text{is the same as} \quad x = -5$$

8. To check, replace  $x$  with  $-5$  in both sides of the equation, and show that the left side is equal to the right side.

$$-5 - 1 = -6 \quad \text{so the left side is } -6$$

$$2(-5) + 4 = -10 + 4 = -6 \quad \text{so the right side is also } -6$$

$$\text{Solve } 2(x-4)=3(x-5)$$

1. Distribute 2 into  $x-4$  and distribute 3 into  $x-5$

$$2x - 2 \cdot 4 = 3x - 3 \cdot 5$$

2. Now do the multiplications.

$$2x - 8 = 3x - 15$$

3. Subtract  $3x$  from both sides

$$2x - 3x - 8 = 3x - 3x - 15$$

4.  $3x-3x$  on the right side is 0, so only  $-15$  is left on the right.

$$2x - 3x - 8 = -15$$

5. On the left, we have  $2x-3x=-1x$

$$-1x - 8 = -15$$

6. Now add 8 to both sides.

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$$-1x = -7$$

7. Divide both sides by  $-1$ .

$$\frac{-1}{-1}x = \frac{-7}{-1}$$

8. Lastly, we have  $x=7$ .

Solve  $x+(x+1)+(x+2)=10$

1. Drop the parenthesis on the left.

$$x + x + 1 + x + 2 = 10$$

2. Combine the x's on the left, and add the 1 and 2.

$$3x + 3 = 10$$

3. Subtract 3 from both sides.

$$3x + 3 - 3 = 10 - 3$$

4. Because  $3-3=0$ , we have the equation below.

$$3x = 7$$

5. Now we divide both sides by 3.

$$x = \frac{7}{3}$$

Solve  $2x+(2x+1)+(2x+2)=6$  using the method shown above.

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