

Solving Equations

In this section, we will look at mathematical statements that are used to describe real-life situations called equations. This idea is central to an Algebra course. We will then look at several properties used to solve the equations.

Recall: An equation represents the equality of two _____.

A **solution** to an equation is a value(s) for the variable(s) that yield a true statement when the values are substituted for the variable(s)

EXAMPLE 1: Show that 10 is a solution to $2x + 3 = 23$.

It is very easy to show that a given value is or isn't a solution to an equation. It is not as easy to find the solution. We will now look at different techniques for finding the solution.

Consider the equation: $x = 2$ The solution to the equation is _____.

We like equations that are in this form because they are easy to solve by inspection. In the equation $x = 2$, we say that we have isolated the variable.

Consider the equation: $x - 8 = -6$ The solution to the equation is _____.

This equation has the same solution as the first one. In this case we say that the equations are **equivalent**.

We will now look at a technique for isolating the variable. To isolate the variable, we **undo** what is happening to the variable. When an equation has the variable isolated, the coefficient of x is _____.

ADDITION PROPERTY OF EQUALITY	SUBTRACTION PROPERTY OF EQUALITY
$x - 3 = 4$ How do you undo $x - 3 + \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 4 + \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ subtracting 3? $x = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$	$x + 10 = 7$ How do you undo $x + 10 - \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 7 - \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ adding 10? $x = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$
You may add any value as long as you do it to both sides.	You may subtract any value as long as you do it to both sides.

EXAMPLE 2: Solve and check each of the following.

a.) $x - 4 = 8$ b.) $x + 67 = -90$ c.) $34 = 34 + j$ d.) $0 = x + 45$ e.) $-6x + 9 + 7x = -2$

CHECK: