

YELLOW: Solving a word problem with 3 unknowns using a linear equation

Over the last 3 evenings Ivanna received a total of 69 phone calls. The first evening she received 6 fewer calls than the 3rd evening. The 2nd evening she received 3 times as many calls as the 3rd evening. How many calls did she receive each evening?

Number of phone calls the first evening:	
Number of phone calls the second evening:	
Number of phone calls the third evening:	

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Explain

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ evening} + 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ evening} + 3^{\text{rd}} \text{ evening} = 69$$

Since 1st + 2nd are compared to 3rd, it is simplest to let $x = \#$ calls on 3rd evening.