

# One-Step Equations

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

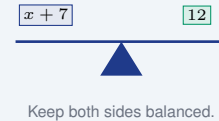
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 18

## Quick Review and Helpful Hints

To solve a one-step equation, undo the operation attached to the variable using its *inverse*: add to undo subtraction, subtract to undo addition, multiply to undo division, divide to undo multiplication. Whatever you do to one side, do to the *other* side to keep the equation balanced.

▷ **Example:** Solve  $x + 7 = 12$ . **Work:** The 7 is added to  $x$ , so undo it by subtracting 7 from both sides:  $x + 7 - 7 = 12 - 7$ . ★ **Answer:**  $x = 5$



## ◆ Practice Problems

Solve each equation for the variable.

1.  $x + 5 = 9$

\_\_\_\_\_

2.  $x - 3 = 8$

\_\_\_\_\_

3.  $4x = 20$

\_\_\_\_\_

4.  $\frac{x}{2} = 6$

\_\_\_\_\_

5.  $x + 10 = 4$

\_\_\_\_\_

6.  $3x = 18$

\_\_\_\_\_

7.  $x - 7 = -2$

\_\_\_\_\_

8.  $\frac{x}{5} = 3$

\_\_\_\_\_

9.  $6x = -24$

\_\_\_\_\_

10.  $x + 2 = 2$

\_\_\_\_\_

11.  $x - 9 = 0$

\_\_\_\_\_

12.  $7x = 49$

\_\_\_\_\_

13.  $\frac{x}{3} = -4$

\_\_\_\_\_

14.  $2x = -10$

\_\_\_\_\_

## ◆ Word Problems

15. After spending \$8, you have \$15 left. How much did you start with?

\_\_\_\_\_

16. Five equal boxes weigh 35 pounds in all. How much does each box weigh?

\_\_\_\_\_

17. A number tripled equals 21. What is the number?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. After adding 6 to a number, the result is 2. What is the number?

\_\_\_\_\_



## Answer Keys

- |             |             |               |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. $x = 4$  | 7. $x = 5$  | 13. $x = -12$ |
| 2. $x = 11$ | 8. $x = 15$ | 14. $x = -5$  |
| 3. $x = 5$  | 9. $x = -4$ | 15. \$23      |
| 4. $x = 12$ | 10. $x = 0$ | 16. 7 lb      |
| 5. $x = -6$ | 11. $x = 9$ | 17. 7         |
| 6. $x = 6$  | 12. $x = 7$ | 18. $-4$      |

### Step-by-Step Explanations

1. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is The 5 is added to  $x$ , so undo it by subtracting 5 from both sides:  $x + 5 - 5 = 4 - 5$ . So the final answer is  $x = -1$ .
2. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is The 3 is subtracted, so undo it by adding 3 to both sides:  $x - 3 + 3 = 11 - 3$ . So the final answer is  $x = 8$ .
3. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is  $x$  is multiplied by 4, so divide both sides by 4:  $4x = 20 \div 4 = 5$ . So the final answer is  $x = 5$ .
4. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is  $x$  is divided by 2, so multiply both sides by 2:  $x \div 2 \times 2 = 12 \times 2$ . So the final answer is  $x = 24$ .
5. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Subtract 10 from both sides:  $x + 10 - 10 = 4 - 10$ . So the final answer is  $x = -6$ .
6. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Divide both sides by 3:  $3x = 18 \div 3 = 6$ . So the final answer is  $x = 6$ .
7. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Add 7 to both sides:  $x - 7 + 7 = 5 + 7$ . So the final answer is  $x = 12$ .
8. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Multiply both sides by 5:  $x \div 5 \times 5 = 3 \times 5 = 15$ . So the final answer is  $x = 15$ .
9. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Divide both sides by 6:  $6x = -24 \div 6 = -4$ . So the final answer is  $x = -4$ .
10. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Subtract 2 from both sides:  $x + 2 - 2 = 2 - 2 = 0$ . So the final answer is  $x = 0$ .
11. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Add 9 to both sides:  $x - 9 + 9 = 0 + 9 = 9$ . So the final answer is  $x = 9$ .
12. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Multiply both sides by 7:  $x \div 7 \times 7 = 49 \div 7 = 7$ . So the final answer is  $x = 7$ .
13. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Multiply both sides by 3:  $x \div 3 \times 3 = -4 \times 3 = -12$ . So the final answer is  $x = -12$ .
14. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Divide both sides by 2:  $x \div 2 \times 2 = -10 \div 2 = -5$ . So the final answer is  $x = -5$ .
15. Step by step: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Let  $x$  be the starting amount. Spending \$8 leaves \$15:  $x - 8 = 15$ . Add 8:  $x = 23$ . So the final answer is \$23.
16. Take it one move at a time: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Five equal boxes weigh 35:  $5x = 35$ . Divide by 5:  $x = 7$  lb each. So the final answer is 7 lb.
17. Start by naming the process: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Tripled means  $3x = 21$ . Divide by 3:  $x = 7$ . So the final answer is 7.
18. A good way to think about this is: Read what the problem is asking, choose the matching rule, write the setup, and then simplify one step at a time. The setup/work is Adding 6 gives 2:  $x + 6 = 2$ . Subtract 6:  $x = -4$ . So the final answer is  $-4$ .



# Keep Building ISEE Upper-Level Math Skills

Recommended Effortless Math resources



Use the complete ISEE Upper-Level Math resource for review, worked examples, extra practice, and test-style questions after each worksheet.



Scan Me  
Download Instantly

## STUDENT FAVORITE - ISEE Upper Level Math Practice Workbook 2026



### ISEE Upper Level Math Practice Workbook 2026

Step-by-step lessons, topic practice, and full review support for students who want a calm path through ISEE Upper-Level Math preparation.

A strong companion for self-study, tutoring, homework, and targeted review.

PDF Edition



Scan Me  
Download Instantly