

Evaluating One Variable

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 18

Quick Review and Helpful Hints

To evaluate an expression, *substitute* the given number in place of the variable, then follow the order of operations (PEMDAS): parentheses, exponents, multiply and divide left to right, then add and subtract left to right. Put the substituted value in parentheses – this matters most when the value is negative.

▶ **Example:** Evaluate $3x + 5$ when $x = 4$. **Work:** Substitute 4 for x : $3(4) + 5$. Following order of operations, multiply first: $12 + 5$. Then add. ★ **Answer:** 17

◆ Practice Problems

Evaluate each expression for the given value of the variable.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. $x + 7$, when $x = 5$ _____</p> <p>2. $2x$, when $x = 9$ _____</p> <p>3. $3x - 4$, when $x = 6$ _____</p> <p>4. x^2, when $x = 5$ _____</p> <p>5. $5x + 1$, when $x = 3$ _____</p> <p>6. $\frac{x}{2} + 6$, when $x = 10$ _____</p> <p>7. $4x - 7$, when $x = 2$ _____</p> | <p>8. $x^2 + 2x$, when $x = 4$ _____</p> <p>9. $10 - 2x$, when $x = 3$ _____</p> <p>10. $2x + 8$, when $x = -3$ _____</p> <p>11. $-x + 5$, when $x = 7$ _____</p> <p>12. $x^2 - 1$, when $x = -4$ _____</p> <p>13. $6x$, when $x = 0.5$ _____</p> <p>14. $3(x + 2)$, when $x = 5$ _____</p> |
|--|---|

◆ Word Problems

15. A taxi charges \$3 plus \$2 per mile, modeled by $2m + 3$. Find the cost for a $m = 8$ mile trip. _____
16. The area of a square is s^2 . Find the area when the side $s = 9$ cm. _____
17. A phone plan costs $25 + 0.10t$ dollars for t texts. Find the cost when $t = 40$. _____
18. The expression $60 - 5h$ gives the liters of water left in a tank after h hours. How much is left after $h = 7$ hours? _____



Answer Keys

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <input type="text" value="12"/> | 7. <input type="text" value="1"/> | 13. <input type="text" value="3"/> |
| 2. <input type="text" value="18"/> | 8. <input type="text" value="24"/> | 14. <input type="text" value="21"/> |
| 3. <input type="text" value="14"/> | 9. <input type="text" value="4"/> | 15. <input type="text" value="\$19"/> |
| 4. <input type="text" value="25"/> | 10. <input type="text" value="2"/> | 16. <input type="text" value="81 cm<sup>2</sup>"/> |
| 5. <input type="text" value="16"/> | 11. <input type="text" value="-2"/> | 17. <input type="text" value="\$29"/> |
| 6. <input type="text" value="11"/> | 12. <input type="text" value="15"/> | 18. <input type="text" value="25 liters"/> |

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 $5 + 7 = 12$. So the final answer is 12.
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 $2(9) = 18$. So the final answer is 18.
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 $3(6) - 4 = 18 - 4 = 14$. So the final answer is 14.
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 $5^2 = 25$. So the final answer is 25.
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 $5(3) + 1 = 15 + 1 = 16$. So the final answer is 16.
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 $\frac{10}{2} + 6 = 5 + 6 = 11$. So the final answer is 11.
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 $4(2) - 7 = 8 - 7 = 1$. So the final answer is 1.
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 $4^2 + 2(4) = 16 + 8 = 24$. So the final answer is 24.
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 $10 - 2(3) = 10 - 6 = 4$. So the final answer is 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 $2(-3) + 8 = -6 + 8 = 2$. So the final answer is 2.
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 $-(7) + 5 = -2$. So the final answer is -2 .
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 $(-4)^2 - 1 = 16 - 1 = 15$. So the final answer is 15.
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 $6(0.5) = 3$. So the final answer is 3.
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 $3(5 + 2) = 3(7) = 21$. So the final answer is 21.
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 $2(8) + 3 = 16 + 3 = \$19$. So the final answer is \$19.
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 $s^2 = 9^2 = 81$ square cm. So the final answer is 81 cm².
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 $25 + 0.10(40) = 25 + 4 = \29 . So the final answer is \$29.
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 $60 - 5(7) = 60 - 35 = 25$ liters. So the final answer is 25 liters.



Keep Building PSAT 8/9 Math Skills

Recommended Effortless Math resources



PSAT 8/9 Math Full Study Guide

Use the complete PSAT 8/9 Math resource for review, worked examples, extra practice, and test-style questions after each worksheet.



Scan Me
Download Instantly

STUDENT FAVORITE - PSAT 8/9 Math for Beginners



PSAT 8/9 Math for Beginners 2026

Step-by-step lessons, topic practice, and full review support for students who want a calm path through PSAT 8/9 Math preparation.

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

PDF Edition



Scan Me
Download Instantly

For more PSAT 8/9 Math prep, visit EffortlessMath.com/PSAT-8-9