

Equations with Variables on Both Sides

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 18

Quick Review and Helpful Hints

When the variable appears on *both* sides, first move all the variable terms to one side (subtract the smaller one from both sides) and the constants to the other side. Then solve the two-step equation that remains.

▷ **Example:** Solve $5x + 3 = 2x + 18$. **Work:** Subtract $2x$ from both sides: $3x + 3 = 18$. Subtract 3: $3x = 15$. Divide by 3: $x = 5$.

★ **Answer:** $x = 5$



Move variables to one side first.

◆ Practice Problems

Solve each equation.

1. $5x + 3 = 2x + 18$

8. $8x - 3 = 3x + 12$

2. $4x + 1 = 2x + 9$

9. $10x + 1 = 6x + 9$

3. $7x - 2 = 3x + 10$

10. $4x + 6 = x + 18$

4. $6x + 5 = 4x + 13$

11. $5x - 7 = 2x + 5$

5. $3x + 8 = x + 14$

12. $6x + 2 = 2x + 10$

6. $9x - 4 = 5x + 8$

13. $7x + 4 = 4x + 19$

7. $2x + 7 = 5x - 2$

14. $3x + 15 = 8x$

◆ Word Problems

15. Plan A costs \$30 plus \$2 per item; Plan B costs \$10 plus \$4 per item. For how many items do they cost the same?

16. A number plus 12 equals four times the number. Find the number.

17. One tree is 8 ft tall and grows 2 ft per year; another is 2 ft tall and grows 4 ft per year. After how many years are they the same height?

18. Two repair companies quote $5x - 8$ dollars and $3x + 2$ dollars for the same job. For what value of x are the quotes equal?



Answer Keys

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

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 Subtract $2x$: $3x + 3 = 18$. Subtract 3: $3x = 15$, so $x = 5$. So the final answer is $x = 5$.
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 Subtract $2x$: $2x + 1 = 9$. Subtract 1: $2x = 8$, so $x = 4$. So the final answer is $x = 4$.
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 Subtract $3x$: $4x - 2 = 10$. Add 2: $4x = 12$, so $x = 3$. So the final answer is $x = 3$.
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 Subtract $4x$: $2x + 5 = 13$. Subtract 5: $2x = 8$, so $x = 4$. So the final answer is $x = 4$.
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 x : $2x + 8 = 14$. Subtract 8: $2x = 6$, so $x = 3$. So the final answer is $x = 3$.
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 Subtract $5x$: $4x - 4 = 8$. Add 4: $4x = 12$, so $x = 3$. So the final answer is $x = 3$.
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 Subtract $2x$: $7 = 3x - 2$. Add 2: $9 = 3x$, so $x = 3$. So the final answer is $x = 3$.
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 Subtract $3x$: $5x - 3 = 12$. Add 3: $5x = 15$, so $x = 3$. So the final answer is $x = 3$.
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 Subtract $6x$: $4x + 1 = 9$. Subtract 1: $4x = 8$, so $x = 2$. So the final answer is $x = 2$.

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 x : $3x + 6 = 18$. Subtract 6: $3x = 12$, so $x = 4$. So the final answer is $x = 4$.
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 Subtract $2x$: $3x - 7 = 5$. Add 7: $3x = 12$, so $x = 4$. So the final answer is $x = 4$.
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 Subtract $2x$: $4x + 2 = 10$. Subtract 2: $4x = 8$, so $x = 2$. So the final answer is $x = 2$.
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 Subtract $4x$: $3x + 4 = 19$. Subtract 4: $3x = 15$, so $x = 5$. So the final answer is $x = 5$.
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 Subtract $3x$: $15 = 5x$. Divide by 5: $x = 3$. So the final answer is $x = 3$.
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 Set $30 + 2x = 10 + 4x$. Subtract $2x$: $30 = 10 + 2x$; then $20 = 2x$, so $x = 10$ items. So the final answer is 10 items.
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 Set $x + 12 = 4x$. Subtract x : $12 = 3x$, so $x = 4$. So the final answer is 4.
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 Set $8 + 2t = 2 + 4t$. Subtract $2t$: $8 = 2 + 2t$; then $6 = 2t$, so $t = 3$ years. So the final answer is 3 years.
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 Subtract $3x$: $2x - 8 = 2$. Add 8: $2x = 10$, so $x = 5$. So the final answer is $x = 5$.



Keep Building PSAT Math Skills

Recommended Effortless Math resources

PSAT Math Test Prep



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



Scan Me
Download Instantly

STUDENT FAVORITE - PSAT Math in 10 Days



PSAT Math in 10 Days

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

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

PDF Edition



Scan Me
Download Instantly

For more PSAT Math prep, visit [EffortlessMath.com/PSAT](https://www.EffortlessMath.com/PSAT)