

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.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. $5x + 3 = 2x + 18$ _____</p> <p>2. $4x + 1 = 2x + 9$ _____</p> <p>3. $7x - 2 = 3x + 10$ _____</p> <p>4. $6x + 5 = 4x + 13$ _____</p> <p>5. $3x + 8 = x + 14$ _____</p> <p>6. $9x - 4 = 5x + 8$ _____</p> <p>7. $2x + 7 = 5x - 2$ _____</p> | <p>8. $8x - 3 = 3x + 12$ _____</p> <p>9. $10x + 1 = 6x + 9$ _____</p> <p>10. $4x + 6 = x + 18$ _____</p> <p>11. $5x - 7 = 2x + 5$ _____</p> <p>12. $6x + 2 = 2x + 10$ _____</p> <p>13. $7x + 4 = 4x + 19$ _____</p> <p>14. $3x + 15 = 8x$ _____</p> |
|---|--|

◆ 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. $x = 5$

2. $x = 4$

3. $x = 3$

4. $x = 4$

5. $x = 3$

6. $x = 3$

7. $x = 3$

8. $x = 3$

9. $x = 2$

10. $x = 4$

11. $x = 4$

12. $x = 2$

13. $x = 5$

14. $x = 3$

15. 10 items

16. 4

17. 3 years

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 TABE Math Skills

Recommended Effortless Math resources



The Most Comprehensive TABE Math Preparation Bundle

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



Scan Me
Download Instantly

STUDENT FAVORITE - TABE Math for Beginners



TABE Math for Beginners 2026

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

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

PDF Edition



Scan Me
Download Instantly

For more TABE Math prep, visit EffortlessMath.com/TABE