

Solving Equations of One Variable

The Goal

Move all variables to one side of the equation and all the numbers to the other side of the equation.

Example

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2(M+2) & = & 4(M-1) \\ 2M+4 & = & 4M-4 \quad (\text{expand to isolate variable}) \\ +4 & & +4 \quad (\text{add 4 to both sides of the equation}) \\ \hline 2M+8 & = & 4M \\ -2M & & -2M \quad (\text{subtract 2M from both sides of the equation}) \\ \hline 8 & = & 2M \\ \div 2 & & \div 2 \quad (\text{divide both sides by 2 (why?)}) \\ \hline 4 & = & M \end{array}$$

1. $5x-2=3$
2. $5x-2=3x$
3. $5(t-1)=2t+4$
4. $2f=4(f-1)$
5. $20d+5=105$
6. $10(4-H)+10=4(20H-10)$
7. $8Q+20=2(40-Q)$
8. Write your own equation (with the variable occurring on both side of the equation) so that the solution is a positive integer.
9. In ten years John will be twice the age he was 5 years ago. How old is John today?
10. Write your own word problem so that the solution is a positive integer.

Solutions to odd numbered problems:

1. $x = 1$, 3. $d = 5$, 5. $L = -19$, 7. $P = 1$, 9. $f = 2$, 11. $J = 100$, 13. $r = 1/10$