

*SOLVING

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EQUATIONS

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C 2011 The Enlightened Elephant

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Rules for solving multi-step equations

1. You want to isolate the variable

(meaning get the variable by itself)

2. Get rid of parenthesis first.

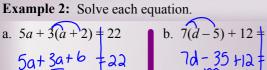
(meaning use the distributive property)

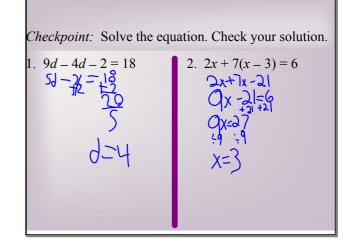
- 3. Combine like terms
- 4. Then you need to UNDUE the operations being done to the variable AND order matters!
 - a. First, undue addition or subtraction
 - b. Second, undue multiplication or division
- 5. Don't forget, whatever you do to one side of the equation has to be done to the other side

Example 1: Solve each equation.

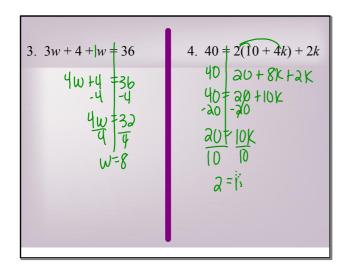
a. $3t + 5t - 5 \neq 11$ $8t - 9 \neq 11$ 45 + 5 8t + 16 12x + 7 + 15 12x + 7 + 15 12x = 144

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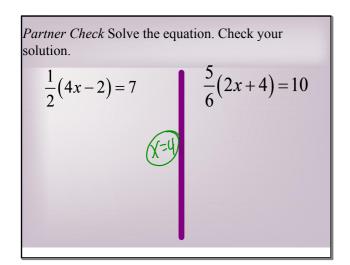


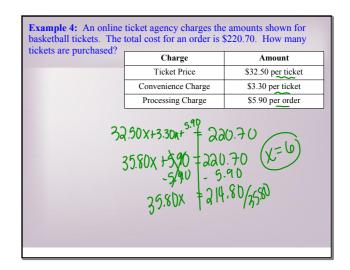
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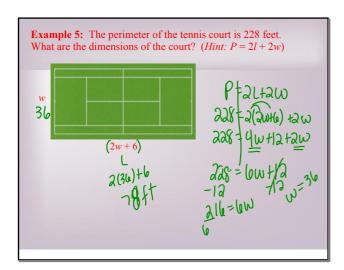
Example 3: Solve each equation. $\frac{1^{3}}{3} \underbrace{\frac{3}{4}(a-5)}_{13} = \underbrace{\frac{9 \cdot 4}{3}}_{13} = \underbrace{\frac{36}{3}}_{13} = \underbrace{\frac{36}{3}}_{13} = \underbrace{\frac{9 \cdot 4}{13}}_{13} = \underbrace{\frac{36}{3}}_{13} = \underbrace{\frac{13}{3}}_{13} = \underbrace{\frac{13}{3}}$

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