

Chapter 4 Writing Equations

Writing Equations from Word Problems:

1. Read phrase/problem carefully.
2. Identify key words/operations and values/variables. ←
3. Define variables {let x = _____}
4. Translate into an equation.
5. Solve.
6. Verify to see if answer makes sense.
7. Answer word problems in a complete sentence including correct units.

Key words:

- more than **add** } reverse order
- less than **subtract** }
- twice **2x**
- divided into **divide**
- is **equal to**
- of **multiply**

Ex. 1: Translate each sentence into a one-step equation. Solve and check your answer.

A. The sum of a number and twelve is -15.

Let $x =$ a number

$$x + 12 = -15$$

$$\begin{array}{r} x + 12 = -15 \\ -12 \quad -12 \\ \hline x = -27 \end{array}$$

The number is -27.

B. 35 is the difference of 25 and a number.

Let $x =$ a number

$$35 = 25 - x$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 35 = 25 - x \\ -25 \quad -25 \\ \hline 10 = -x \\ \frac{10}{-1} = \frac{-x}{-1} \quad x = -10 \end{array}$$

The number is -10.

C. The quotient of a number and negative five is -12.

Let $x =$ a number

$$\frac{x}{-5} = -12$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{x}{-5} = -12 \cdot -5 \\ \frac{x}{-5} = 60 \\ \frac{x}{-5} \cdot -5 = 60 \cdot -5 \\ x = -300 \end{array}$$

The number is 60.

D. Five less than a number is 20.

Let $x =$ a number

$$x - 5 = 20$$

$$\begin{array}{r} x - 5 = 20 \\ +5 \quad +5 \\ \hline x = 25 \end{array}$$

The number is 25

E. Ten is 6 fewer than a number.

Let $x =$ a number

$$10 = x - 6$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 = x - 6 \\ +6 \quad +6 \\ \hline 16 = x \end{array}$$

The number is 16

F. Forty two is the product of a number and negative 6.

Let $x =$ a number

$$42 = -6x$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 42 = -6x \\ -6 \quad -6 \\ \hline -7 = x \end{array}$$

The number is -7.

Ex. 2: Translate each sentence into a two-step equation. Solve and check your answer.

A. Two times the sum of a number and five is 36.

Let $x =$ a number

$$2(x + 5) = 36$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2(x + 5) = 36 \\ 2x + 10 = 36 \\ -10 \quad -10 \\ \hline 2x = 26 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{2x}{2} = \frac{26}{2}$$

$$x = 13$$

The number is 13

B. The quotient of a number and six increased by eleven is negative nine.

Let $x =$ a number

$$\frac{x}{6} + 11 = -9$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \frac{x}{6} + 11 = -9 \\ -11 \quad -11 \\ \hline \frac{x}{6} = -20 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{x}{6} \cdot 6 = -20 \cdot 6$$

$$x = -120$$

The number is -120.

C. Five more than twice a number is -25.

Let $n =$ a number

$$2n + 5 = -25$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2n + 5 = -25 \\ -5 \quad -5 \\ \hline 2n = -30 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{2n}{2} = \frac{-30}{2}$$

$$n = -15$$

The number is -15.