

Solving Equations

Step One: If fractions are present, multiply both sides of the equation by the common denominator of all the fractions in the equation. This will get rid of the fractions.

Step Two: If parentheses are present, do what they indicate so as to get rid of them.

Step Three: Add or subtract ONLY until you get all of your variables on one side of the equation alone.

Step Four: Divide or multiply as necessary to achieve the form **$X = a \text{ number}$** .

Note:

Always combine like terms whenever possible to keep your work as simple as possible. However, NEVER combine like terms across the = sign.

Note:

The most important point to remember as you work toward solving an equation is that if you do something to one side of an equation, you must do the same thing to the other side of the equation at the same time.