

I multiply a number by 2 and then add 3. If I end up with 11, what number did I start with?

Think about the problem in the thought bubble. We can work backwards from 11 to find the unknown number. In the previous section, we saw that...

Addition **undoes** subtraction.

Subtraction **undoes** addition.

Multiplication **undoes** division.

Division **undoes** multiplication.

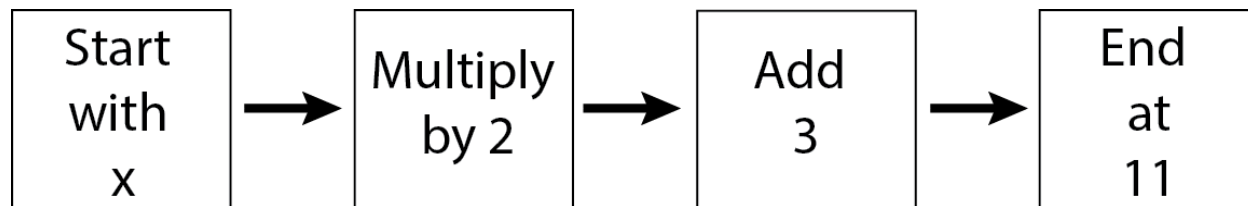
The algebraic equation we would solve for the thought bubble problem is $2x + 3 = 11$. We need one more concept to solve these equations. You guessed it! It has to do with socks and shoes!

Socks and Shoes Property:

In the morning, you put your socks on and then your shoes. In the evening, you have to take your shoes off *first*, and *then* take your socks off. Right?

The same is true of this equation $2x + 3 = 11$.

We will visualize this equation with what we call a **verbal model**. It's basically the equation in word form.



To solve the equation, we start at the right end and undo the steps, going toward the left, ending with x . Try it here.

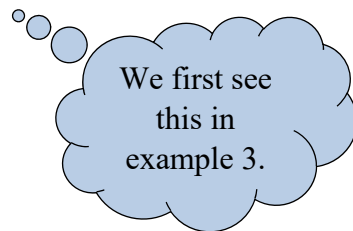
To understand this, think about the order of operations when *checking* if a given number is a solution to the equation.

Solving Equations Tips:

1. We work through equivalent equations, rewriting our equation in simpler and simpler forms, until we get to something like $x = 4$.
2. Remember what operation undoes another.
3. Think through what happened to x to form the equation and undo that, in reverse order.
4. We add, subtract, multiply, and divide the *whole* side of the equation. You have to treat *all* terms the same!
5. When you are given an equation, look for opportunities to *simplify an individual side before* doing stuff to both sides.

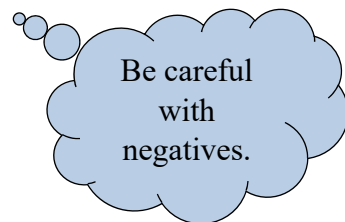
expl 1: Solve. Check your solution.

$$3x - 5 = 25$$



expl 2: Solve. Check your solution.

$$20 - \frac{x}{5} = 13$$



expl 3: Solve. Check your solution.

$$4m + 6m - 9 = 14$$

expl 4: Solve. Check your solution.

$$\frac{x+4}{12} = -3$$

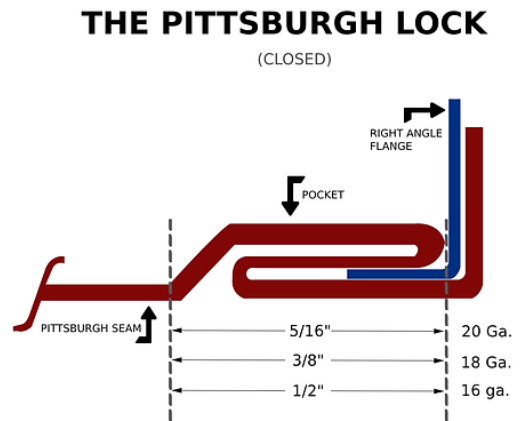
Worksheet: Solving Linear Equations:

Here, we will practice the verbal model method of solving equations.

Applications:

Again, of utmost importance is recognizing what the variables represent. Always define your variables!

expl 5: The allowance A for a Pittsburgh lock (in inches) is given by $A = 2w + \frac{3}{16}$ where w is the width of the pocket. If the allowance for a Pittsburgh lock is $\frac{11}{16}$ in., what is the width of the pocket?



(Source: <https://www.gmcmechanetools.com>)

expl 6: An electrician's total bill A can be calculated as $A = RT + M$. Here, R is her hourly rate (dollars per hour), T is the total labor time in hours, and M is the cost of materials. A bill came to \$1825. If materials cost \$1200 and her hourly rate is \$125/hour, how many hours did she spend on the job?