Answers and talk notes

The Distributive Property

What your student is learning

Tonight we learn the distributive property. It lets us multiply a number by everything inside the parentheses, one piece at a time.

Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **B.** 20. 3 + 2 = 5, and 4 × 5 = 20.
2. **D.** 5 × 6 + 5 × 4. The distributive property shares the 5 with each term: 5 × 6 + 5 × 4.
3. **A.** 6n + 12. Multiply 6 by each term: 6 × n = 6n and 6 × 2 = 12, so 6n + 12.
4. **C.** 3x – 15. 3 × x = 3x and 3 × 5 = 15, and the sign stays a minus: 3x – 15.
5. **B.** 36 square units. 4 × 7 + 4 × 2 = 28 + 8 = 36 square units.
6. **D.** 5. 20 ÷ 4 = 5, and 4 × 3 = 12, so 12 + 20 = 4(3 + 5).

Talk about it

What does the 3 count in this problem?

Home mission

Pretend you are buying 3 concert bundles: a $15 ticket and a $5 snack each. Can your student say the total two ways out loud? Then pick two prices on a receipt and try 2 bundles.

When they are stuck, ask

- Did the outside number reach both parts inside the parentheses?
- Let's draw an arrow from the outside number to each part.
- Let's try adding inside first and check if we get the same answer.

Try not to say

- Just multiply the outside number by the first part.
- 3(x + 4) is the same as 3x + 4.
- The number outside only goes with the variable.