Answers and talk notes

Write and Evaluate Algebraic Expressions

What your student is learning

Tonight we turn words into an algebraic expression, then evaluate it for a given number of students.

Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **C.** 7. In 7n + 4 the coefficient is 7, the number multiplied by the variable.
2. **A.** 8. In 3k + 8 the constant is 8. It is the number with no variable, so it never changes.
3. **D.** x + 6. x + 6 means x increased by 6. Increased by means add 6 to x.
4. **B.** 3n. 3n is the total cost, because $3 is paid for each of the n notebooks.
5. **C.** 21. 4n + 1 = 4 × 5 + 1 = 21 when n = 5.
6. **B.** 9t + 3. 9t + 3 is the cost: $9 for each of the t tickets plus $3 once for the drink.

Talk about it

What does the letter stand for, and which number is multiplied by it?

Home mission

Pick a price from a ticket stub or a menu, like $8, and a one-time fee, like $10. Ask your student for the cost of 2 tickets, then 5. What stays the same? What changes?

When they are stuck, ask

- What key word do you see? Does it tell us to add, subtract, or multiply?
- Which number stays the same no matter what, and which one changes?
- Let's read the phrase out loud and write it one piece at a time.

Try not to say

- "5 less than a number" means 5 minus the number.
- Just put the numbers in the order you read them.
- A letter next to a number means add them.