Answers and talk notes

Understand Equations and Their Solutions

What your student is learning

Tonight we turn a word clue into an equation, and we check whether a value is a solution by substituting it.

Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **B.** x + 5 = 12. x + 5 = 12 is an equation because it has an equal sign between two sides.
2. **C.** n. n is the variable because it is a letter standing for an unknown number.
3. **A.** 6. The solution is 6 because 6 + 3 = 9.
4. **D.** 12 − s = 7. 12 − s = 7 matches because he starts with 12 and takes away s.
5. **C.** Yes, because 3 × 4 = 12. Yes, because 3 × 4 = 12, so both sides are equal.

Talk about it

What does the letter stand for in your equation? Which number makes both sides equal?

Home mission

Hide some coins in a cup. Put 3 more coins next to it. Say, «The cup plus 3 coins is 10 coins.» Can your student write n + 3 = 10? Then test a guess by putting it in for n.

When they are stuck, ask

- What number are we trying to find? Let's pick a letter for it.
- What does the word 'plus' tell us to write? And the word 'equals'?
- Read the clue out loud. What is each part telling us to do?

Try not to say

- An equation is any sentence that has numbers in it.
- You don't need the equal sign.
- Just guess the answer instead of writing the equation.