Unit 4, Lesson 6

Strategic Solving

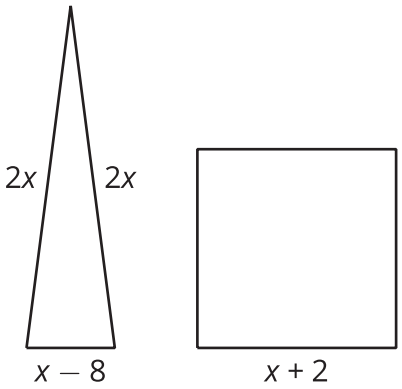
Let's solve linear equations like a boss.

6.1 Equal Perimeters

The triangle and the square have equal perimeters.

1. Find the value of x.

2. What is the perimeter of each of the figures?



6.2 Predicting Solutions

Without solving, identify whether these equations have a solution that is positive, negative, or zero.

1. $\frac{x}{6} = \frac{3x}{4}$
2. $7x = 3.25$
3. $7x = 32.5$
4. $3x + 11 = 11$
5. $9 - 4x = 4$
6. $-8 + 5x = -20$
7. $-\frac{1}{2}(-8 + 5x) = -20$

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6.3 Which Would You Rather Solve?

Here are a lot of equations:

A. $-\frac{5}{6}(8+5b) = 75 + \frac{5}{3}b$

B. $-\frac{1}{2}(t+3) - 10 = -6.5$

C. $\frac{10-v}{4} = 2(v+17)$

D. $2(4k+3) - 13 = 2(18-k) - 13$

E. $\frac{n}{7} - 12 = 5n + 5$

F. $3(c-1) + 2(3c+1) = -(3c+1)$

G. $\frac{4m-3}{4} = -\frac{9+4m}{8}$

H. $p - 5(p+4) = p - (8-p)$

I. $2(2q+1.5) = 18 - q$

J. $2r + 49 = -8(-r-5)$

1. Without solving, identify 3 equations that you think would be least difficult to solve and 3 equations you think would be most difficult to solve. Be prepared to explain your reasoning.

2. Choose 3 equations to solve. At least one should be from your "least difficult" list and one should be from your "most difficult" list.

Are you ready for more?

Mai, Tyler, and Kiran are using special paper to make an origami project. Each creation requires half of a sheet of paper.

Mai gave half of her sheets of paper, and then half a sheet of paper more, to Kiran. Then she gave half of what was left, and half a sheet of paper more, to Tyler. That left her with one remaining sheet of paper. How many sheets of paper did Mai have to start with?

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Lesson 6 Summary

Sometimes we are asked to solve equations with a lot of things happening on each side. For example:

$$x - 2(x + 5) = \frac{3(2x - 20)}{6}$$

This equation has variables on each side, parentheses, and even a fraction to think about. Before we start distributing, let's take a closer look at the fraction on the right side. The expression $2x - 20$ is being multiplied by 3 and divided by 6, which is the same as just dividing by 2, so we can re-write the equation as:

$$x - 2(x + 5) = \frac{2x - 20}{2}$$

But now it's easier to see that all the terms in the numerator of right side are divisible by 2, which means we can re-write the right side again as:

$$x - 2(x + 5) = x - 10$$

At this point, we could do some distribution and then collect like terms on each side of the equation. Another choice would be to use the structure of the equation. Both the left and the right side have something being subtracted from x. But, if the two sides are equal, that means the things being subtracted on each side must also be equal. Thinking this way, the equation can now be rewritten with fewer terms as:

$$2(x + 5) = 10$$

Only a few steps left! But what can we tell about the solution to this problem right now? Is it positive? Negative? Zero? Well, the 2 and the 5 multiplied together are 10, so that means the 2 and the x multiplied together cannot have a positive or a negative value. Finishing the steps we have:

$$\begin{aligned} & 2(x + 5) = 10 \\ \text{Divide each side by 2} \quad & x + 5 = 5 \\ \text{Subtract 5 from each side} \quad & x = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Neither positive nor negative. Just as predicted.