

# SOLVING ALGEBRAIC EQUATIONS

THE GOAL: GET ALL QUESTIONS REDUCED TO  $x = A$

EX:  $x = 4$

$B = -7$

$N = 14$

A VARIABLE/  
UNKNOWN  
(Positive 1 x)

AN INTEGER (CAN BE POSITIVE OR  
NEGATIVE)

HOW TO SOLVE:

- ① WORK OUT WHAT TO REMOVE TO GET "X = ..."
- ② REMOVE IT BY DOING THE REVERSE
- ③ DO THAT TO BOTH SIDES

$$4x = 8$$

\* WE WANT TO REMOVE THE "4" SO THAT I AM LEFT WITH 1 "X" \*

WE WANT TO REMOVE THE "A"	To remove the opposite so $\div 4$	DO IT TO BOTH SIDES $\div 4 \quad \div 4$	which is...	SOLVED
① $4x = 8$	② $4x = 8$	③ $4x = 8$	④ $1x = 2$	⑤ $x = 2$

$$3x + 6 = 24$$

$-6 \quad -6$   
 $(6 + (-6) = 0)$

$$3x = 18$$

$\div 3 \quad \div 3$

$$\boxed{x = 6}$$

GOAL = MOVE/DO THINGS  
"SO THAT I ONLY HAVE  
"X" ON ONE SIDE AND  
ONLY #'S ON THE OTHER"

**ALGEBRA** = USING LETTERS to REPRESENT UNKNOWN NUMBERS in A MATH EXPRESSION/EQUATION

To solve an equation we need to **ISOLATE THE VARIABLE** on one side of the equation.

To do this, we get rid of the numbers on that side of the equation by doing the opposite operation.

When we solve an equation using algebra, we must **PRESERVE THE EQUALITY**.

Whatever we do to one side of the equation, we must do to the other side, too.

$$3x + 5 = 14$$

$$3x = 9$$

$$x = 3$$