

1.3

Algebraic Expressions



Quick Review

- Algebraic expressions contain variables such as x and n .
 x and n can represent any numbers you choose.

Here are some examples of algebraic expressions and what they mean.

$x + 5$: Five more than a number

$n - 3$: Three less than a number

$3 - n$: Three subtract a number

$5x$: Five times a number

$5n + 3$: Five times a number, then add 3; or
 three more than five times a number

$\frac{100}{n}$: One hundred divided by a number

$\frac{n}{100}$: A number divided by one hundred

- In the algebraic expression $7t + 2$.
 7 is the **numerical coefficient** of the variable.
 2 is the **constant term**.
 t is the variable.

- An algebraic expression can help you solve similar problems more efficiently. Once you know the algebraic expression, you can use it again, even if the numbers change.

Suppose you earn \$8 per hour.

For 3 hours, you earn: $3 \times \$8 = \24

For t hours, you earn: $t \times \$8 = 8t$ dollars

- To evaluate an expression means to substitute a number for the variable, then calculate the answer.

To evaluate $2a - 5$ for $a = 7$:

Replace a with 7 in the expression $2a - 5$.

$$2a - 5 = 2(7) - 5$$

$$= 14 - 5$$

$$= 9$$

H I N T

If you see how to solve a problem using numbers, then you can write an algebraic expression for the problem. Replace the number that changes with a variable.



H I N T

Recall that $2a$ means $2 \times a$. Use the order of operations. Multiply before subtracting.



Practice

1. Match each algebraic expression with its meaning.

$6 + x$

Five less than a number

$4n$

One more than double a number

$1 + 2t$

Five subtract a number

$5 - p$

Four times a number

$s - 5$

Three times a number subtract four

$3g - 4$

Six more than a number

2. Identify the numerical coefficient, the variable, and the constant term in each expression.

a) $4 + 5s$

Numerical coefficient: _____ Variable: _____ Constant term: _____

b) $x + 7$

Numerical coefficient: _____ Variable: _____ Constant term: _____

c) $9m$

Numerical coefficient: _____ Variable: _____ Constant term: _____

3. An algebraic expression has constant term 12, variable t , and numerical coefficient 8.

What might the expression be? _____

4. Write an algebraic expression for each phrase.

Use the variable n .

a) Ten times a number _____ b) Double a number _____

c) A number divided by four _____ d) Six less than a number _____

e) Three more than ten times a number _____

f) Six less than ten times a number _____

5. A clerk earns \$12 an hour.

Find how much the clerk earns for each time.

a) 5 h work

b) 8 h work

c) p hours work

$$5 \times \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad} \quad \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad} \quad \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

6. A car travels at an average speed of 60 km/h.

Find how far it travels in each time.

a) 3 h

b) 5 h

c) x hours

$$3 \times \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad} \quad \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad} \quad \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$$

7. Evaluate each expression by replacing z with 10.

a) $z + 5 = 10 + 5$
 $=$ _____

b) $8 + z =$ _____
 $=$ _____

c) $z - 6 =$ _____
 $=$ _____

d) $15 - z =$ _____
 $=$ _____

e) $3z =$ _____
 $=$ _____

f) $5z =$ _____
 $=$ _____

8. Evaluate each expression by replacing n with 2.

a) $2n + 3$
 $= 2 \times$ _____ $+ 3$
 $=$ _____ $+ 3$
 $=$ _____

b) $20 - 5n$
 $=$ _____ $- 5 \times 2$
 $=$ _____
 $=$ _____

c) $\frac{n}{2} + 8$
 $=$ _____
 $=$ _____
 $=$ _____

d) $14 - \frac{n}{2}$
 $=$ _____
 $=$ _____
 $=$ _____

Tip

Use the order of operations:
B — Brackets
D, M — Divide, Multiply
A, S — Add, Subtract

9. Sofia works part-time in a convenience store.

She earns \$6/h during the day, and \$8/h during the evening.

a) In one week, Sofia worked 10 h in the day and 9 h in the evening.
 Write an expression for her earnings in dollars.

b) Suppose Sofia works n hours in the day and 7 h in the evening.

i) Write an expression for her earnings in dollars.

ii) How much does Sofia earn when $n = 5$?

c) Suppose Sofia works 9 h in the day and m hours in the evening.

i) Write an expression for her earnings in dollars.

ii) How much does Sofia earn when $m = 11$?

KEY TO SUCCESS

Evaluating algebraic expressions is an important skill. Carpenters, computer scientists, designers, electricians, and auto mechanics all use this skill to solve problems on the job.