

Equivalent Equations and Pan Balances

Math Message

- 1 Determine whether the two equations in each set are equivalent. Be prepared to discuss how you decided whether they are equivalent or not.

Set A

$$4x + 3x = 21$$

$$7x = 21$$

Equivalent? _____

Set B

$$3(x + 2) = 7 + x$$

$$3x + 2 = 7 + x$$

Equivalent? _____

Set C

$$x = 5$$

$$5x = 25$$

Equivalent? _____

- 2 Start with the original pan-balance equation. Do the first operation on both sides of the pan balance and write the results on the second pan balance. Complete the third and fourth pan balances in the same way.

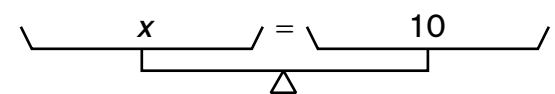
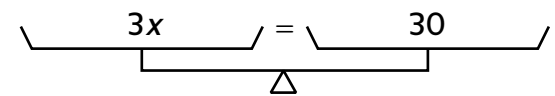
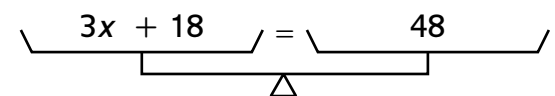
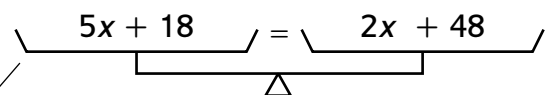
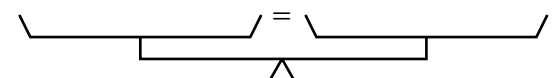
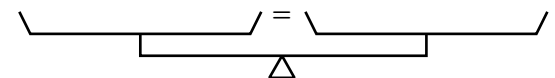
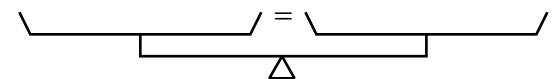
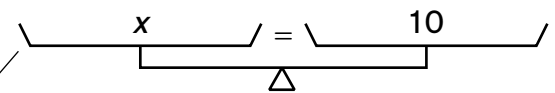
Original pan-balance equation:

Operations (in words)

Multiply by 3.

Add 18.

Add 2x.



- 3 Now do the opposite of what you did in Problem 2. In words, record the operation you used to obtain the results on each pan balance.

Equivalent Equations and Pan Balances (continued)

- 4 Record the results of the operation on each pan, as you did in Problem 2.

Original pan-balance equation:

Operation (in words)

Subtract 2.

Multiply by 4.

Add $2n$.

$$\underbrace{\quad n \quad} = \underbrace{\quad 7 \quad}$$

$$\underbrace{\quad \quad} = \underbrace{\quad \quad}$$

$$\underbrace{\quad \quad} = \underbrace{\quad \quad}$$

$$\underbrace{\quad \quad} = \underbrace{\quad \quad}$$

- 5 Check that 7 is a solution to each pan-balance equation in Problem 4.

- 6 Record the operation that was used to obtain the results on each pan balance, as you did in Problem 3.

Original pan-balance equation:

Operation (in words)

$$\underbrace{4 * (n - 2) + 2n} = \underbrace{20 + 2n}$$

$$\underbrace{4 * (n - 2)} = \underbrace{20}$$

$$\underbrace{n - 2} = \underbrace{5}$$

$$\underbrace{n} = \underbrace{7}$$

- 7 Check that 7 is a solution to each pan-balance equation in Problem 6.

- 8 Original equation:

Operation (in words)

$$\underbrace{3p + 6} = \underbrace{10}$$

$$\underbrace{3p} = \underbrace{4}$$

$$\underbrace{p} = \underbrace{\frac{4}{3}}$$

- 9 Check that $\frac{4}{3}$ is a solution.