

What Is An Equation In Math

Unveiling the Power of Equations: A Deep Dive into Mathematical Equality

Equations, the bedrock of mathematical reasoning, lie at the heart of countless scientific discoveries, technological advancements, and practical applications. From calculating the trajectory of a rocket to predicting the weather, equations provide a precise and concise language for describing the world around us. But what *is* an equation, and what makes it so fundamental? This comprehensive guide delves into the essence of equations, exploring their structure, types, and applications.

Understanding the Fundamental Concept: What is an Equation in Math?

At its core, an equation is a mathematical statement that asserts the equality of two expressions. These expressions can be incredibly simple, like $2 + 3 = 5$, or incredibly complex, involving variables, functions, and intricate operations. The crucial element is the equality symbol ($=$), which signifies that the expressions on both sides of the equation represent the same value. This equality is the cornerstone of mathematical problem-solving.

Key Components of an Equation:

- **Expressions:** These are combinations of numbers, variables, and mathematical operations.
- **Variables:** Symbols (usually letters like x , y , or z) representing unknown values.
- **Constants:** Fixed numerical values.
- **Equality Symbol ($=$):** The crucial symbol indicating that the expressions on either side of it are equivalent.

Types of Equations: A Categorical Overview

Equations manifest in diverse forms, each with its own characteristics and applications.

1. Linear Equations:

Linear equations represent a relationship between variables that creates a straight line when graphed. They involve only the first power of the variables. Example: $2x + 3y = 7$

2. Quadratic Equations:

Quadratic equations involve the second power of a variable. Example: $x^2 + 5x + 6 = 0$

3. Polynomial Equations:

These equations involve multiple variables and their powers. Example: $x^3 - 2x^2 + x - 1 = 0$

4. Exponential Equations:

These equations contain variables in the exponents. Example: $2^x = 8$

5. Trigonometric Equations:

Equations involving trigonometric functions (sine, cosine, tangent, etc.). Example: $\sin(x) = 0.5$

Solving Equations: Finding the Unknown

A significant advantage of equations lies in their ability to solve for unknowns. The process of solving an equation involves manipulating the equation using mathematical rules to isolate the variable and determine its value. This is a fundamental skill in mathematics and across numerous fields of study.

Real-World Applications of Equations

Equations are not confined to the abstract realm of mathematics. They underpin numerous real-world applications.

Example: Calculating Distance, Rate, and Time

The equation distance = rate $\times$ time ($d = rt$) is a cornerstone of calculating distances traveled given known rates and times.

Example: Designing Structures

Engineers use equations to model structural forces and stresses, ensuring the stability and safety of buildings, bridges, and other structures.

Example: Predicting Future Trends

Scientists use equations to model phenomena, from population growth to climate change, and to forecast future trends.

Field	Equation	Application
Physics	$F = ma$	Newton's second law of motion
Chemistry	$PV = nRT$	Ideal gas law
Finance	$FV = PV(1 + i)^n$	Future value calculation

The Power of Variables in Equations

Variables are the heart of equations, representing unknown quantities that can be determined through solving the equation. They enable us to describe relationships between different quantities, enabling generalization and prediction.

Advantages of using Equations in Problem Solving

- **Precision:** Equations provide precise and unambiguous representations of relationships.
- **Predictability:** They enable us to predict future outcomes based on known values.
- **Generalizability:** Equations can be used to describe a wide range of situations and scenarios.
- **Standardization:** Equations provide a universal language to describe complex phenomena.

Beyond Basic Equations: Exploring Related Concepts

1. Inequalities: The World of "Less Than" and "Greater Than"

Inequalities are mathematical statements that express the relationship between two expressions using symbols like $<$, $>$, $\leq$, or $\geq$. While not equations, they are closely related and fundamental in various applications.

2. Functions: The Relationships Between Variables

Functions describe a relationship between inputs and outputs. Equations often express these relationships, showcasing how one variable depends on others.

3. Graphing Equations: Visualizing Relationships

Visualizing equations through graphs reveals the relationships between variables in a clear and intuitive manner.

Conclusion: The Enduring Significance of Equations

Equations are not just mathematical constructs; they are powerful tools for understanding and manipulating the world around us. From unraveling the mysteries of the universe to solving everyday problems, equations underpin our ability to model, predict, and control the physical world. Their continued development and application promise even greater discoveries and advancements in the future.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What's the difference between an equation and an expression? An equation states a relationship of equality between two expressions, while an expression is a combination of numbers, variables, and operators, but does not include an equality sign. 2. How do I solve an equation? The steps to solve an equation depend on its type. Common methods include isolating the variable, performing inverse operations, and checking your solution. 3. **When are inequalities useful?** Inequalities are helpful for describing situations where one value is greater than or less than another, such as describing ranges of possible values or comparing quantities. 4. **How do equations help in science and technology?** Equations allow scientists and engineers to model natural phenomena, predict outcomes, and design innovative technologies. 5. Can equations be used to model complex real-world problems? Absolutely. Complex problems often involve multiple interacting factors, which can be represented and analyzed using systems of equations and advanced mathematical models.

Unlocking the Mystery: What Exactly is an Equation in Math?

Ever stared at a string of numbers and symbols, a question mark hanging in the air? You've probably encountered a mathematical equation. They're the backbone of algebra, the building blocks of calculus, and the silent workhorses behind so many technologies we use every day. But what *is* an equation, at its core? It's more than just a jumble of characters; it's a statement of balance, a puzzle waiting to be solved, and a powerful tool for understanding the world around us.

Think of it this way: life is full of relationships. How much flour do you need for a cake based on how many people you're serving? What's the speed of a car if you know the distance and time? These are all questions that can be represented and answered using the elegant language of mathematics, and equations are the stars of that show. They provide a structured way to express these connections and find unknown values. So, let's dive deep into the world of equations, demystify them, and see just how important they are.

The Fundamental Definition: A Balancing Act

At its heart, a mathematical equation is simply a statement that two expressions are equal. The keyword here is "equal." This equality is represented by the iconic equals sign, '='. It's the visual anchor that tells us, "What's on this side is exactly the same in value as what's on the other side."

Breaking Down the Components

Every equation is made up of a few key parts:

1. **Expressions:** These are combinations of numbers, variables (letters that represent unknown values), and mathematical operations (like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division). For example, ' $5 + x$ ' is an expression, and ' $2y - 3$ ' is another.
2. **The Equals Sign (=):** As mentioned, this is the bridge that connects the two expressions, signifying their equivalence.
3. **Variables:** These are the unknowns. We often use letters like ' x ', ' y ', ' a ', or ' b ' to stand in for numbers we don't yet know. Finding the value of these variables is usually the goal when solving an equation.
4. **Constants:** These are the fixed numerical values within an expression, like the ' 5 ' in ' $5 + x$ ' or the ' 3 ' in ' $2y - 3$ '.

The "Truth" of an Equation

An equation can be either true or false, depending on the values of its variables. For instance, in the equation ' $3 + 5 = 8$ ', this is a true statement. However, in ' $3 + 5 = 9$ ', this is a false statement. When an equation contains variables, like ' $x + 2 = 5$ ', it's considered an open sentence. It's not inherently true or false until we assign a specific value to the variable ' x '. If we

substitute 'x' with '3', the equation becomes ' $3 + 2 = 5$ ', which is true. If we substitute 'x' with '1', it becomes ' $1 + 2 = 5$ ', which is false.

Beyond the Basics: Types of Equations

Equations come in a dazzling variety, each with its own characteristics and methods of solution. While the fundamental concept of equality remains, the complexity and the nature of the unknowns can differ significantly. Here are some common types you'll encounter:

Linear Equations: The Straight and Narrow Path

Linear equations are the simplest form. They involve variables raised only to the power of one (no squares, no cubes, etc.). When graphed, linear equations produce a straight line. The standard form of a linear equation in one variable is **$ax + b = c$** , where 'a', 'b', and 'c' are constants, and 'x' is the variable.

Example: ' $2x - 4 = 10$ '. To solve this, you'd aim to isolate 'x'. Add 4 to both sides: ' $2x = 14$ '. Then, divide both sides by 2: ' $x = 7$ '. This simple process of manipulating both sides of the equation to maintain balance is crucial for solving all types of equations.

Quadratic Equations: The Curve Appeal

Quadratic equations are characterized by a variable raised to the power of two. The standard form is **$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$** , where 'a' is not zero. These equations, when graphed, form a parabola, a distinctive U-shaped curve. Solving quadratic equations often requires more advanced techniques like factoring, completing the square, or using the quadratic formula.

Example: ' $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$ '. This equation can be solved by factoring into ' $(x - 2)(x - 3) = 0$ '. This means either ' $x - 2 = 0$ ' (so $x = 2$) or ' $x - 3 = 0$ ' (so $x = 3$). Notice that quadratic equations can sometimes have two solutions, one solution, or even no real solutions.

Polynomial Equations: A Family Affair

This is a broader category that includes linear and quadratic equations. A polynomial equation has one or more terms, each consisting of a constant multiplied by one or more variables raised to a non-negative integer power. The degree of a polynomial equation is the highest power of the variable.

Examples: ' $3x^3 + 2x^2 - x + 7 = 0$ ' (a cubic equation, degree 3) or ' $x^5 - 10 = 0$ ' (a quintic equation, degree 5).

Exponential Equations: Growing Power

In exponential equations, the variable appears in the exponent. These are vital for modeling growth and decay processes, such as population growth or radioactive decay.

Example: ' $2^x = 16$ '. Here, we're asking, "What power do we need to raise 2 to in order to get

16?" The answer is 4, since $2^4 = 16$. Logarithms are often used to solve more complex exponential equations.

Trigonometric Equations: The Rhythmic Patterns

These equations involve trigonometric functions like sine, cosine, and tangent. They are fundamental in fields like physics, engineering, and music, where periodic patterns are common.

Example: ' $\sin(x) = 0.5$ '. Solving this involves finding the angles 'x' for which the sine function equals 0.5. There are infinitely many solutions in this case, repeating at regular intervals.

The Art of Solving Equations: Finding the Unknown

The process of finding the value(s) of the variable(s) that make an equation true is called "solving the equation." This is where the real magic happens, and it relies on a fundamental principle: maintaining balance.

The Golden Rule of Equations: Do Unto Both Sides

Whatever operation you perform on one side of the equals sign, you *must* perform the exact same operation on the other side. This ensures that the equality remains intact. Think of it like a balanced scale – if you add weight to one side, you have to add the same weight to the other to keep it level.

Common Techniques for Solving

1. **Isolation:** This is the most basic technique, used extensively in linear equations. The goal is to get the variable all by itself on one side of the equation. This involves using inverse operations: addition undoes subtraction, subtraction undoes addition, multiplication undoes division, and division undoes multiplication.
2. **Substitution:** Sometimes, you might have a system of equations (multiple equations with multiple variables). Substitution involves solving one equation for one variable and then plugging that expression into another equation.
3. **Elimination:** Another technique for systems of equations. You manipulate the equations (often by multiplying them by constants) so that when you add or subtract them, one of the variables cancels out, leaving you with an equation in a single variable.
4. **Factoring:** Crucial for solving polynomial equations, especially quadratic ones. Factoring breaks down a polynomial into a product of simpler expressions.
5. **Quadratic Formula:** A universal solution for any quadratic equation. It's a formula that directly gives you the solutions based on the coefficients of the equation.
6. **Logarithms:** Essential for solving exponential equations where the variable is in the exponent.

Why Are Equations So Important? The Ubiquitous Nature of Math

Equations are not just abstract mathematical concepts; they are powerful tools that underpin almost every aspect of modern life. Their applications are so vast that it's almost impossible to list them all, but here are a few key areas:

1. **Science and Engineering:** From the laws of physics (like Newton's laws of motion, expressed as equations) to the design of bridges, aircraft, and microchips, equations are indispensable. They allow us to model phenomena, predict outcomes, and create innovative solutions. Think about the **equation** for gravity or the **equations** used in circuit analysis.
2. **Technology:** The software on your computer, the algorithms that power search engines, the encryption that keeps your online data safe – all rely heavily on mathematical equations and the logic they represent.
3. **Economics and Finance:** Economists use equations to model market behavior, predict economic trends, and manage financial risk. Interest rate calculations, stock market predictions, and insurance premium assessments all involve complex equations.
4. **Everyday Life:** Even in seemingly simple scenarios, equations are at play. Calculating the amount of paint needed for a room, figuring out the best deal at the grocery store, or adjusting a recipe – these involve basic algebraic thinking and the use of implicit equations.
5. **Problem Solving:** At its core, mathematics is about problem-solving, and equations provide a structured framework for tackling challenges. They teach us to break down complex issues into manageable parts, identify relationships, and arrive at logical conclusions.

The Journey of Understanding Equations

The concept of an equation might seem simple at first glance – a statement of equality. However, as we delve deeper, we see a rich and intricate world of mathematical relationships, diverse types of equations, and powerful methods for unlocking their secrets. From the straightforward balance of a linear equation to the complex interplay of variables in a polynomial or exponential equation, each type offers a unique lens through which to view and understand the quantitative aspects of our world.

Mastering the art of solving equations is not just about getting the right numerical answer; it's about developing critical thinking skills, logical reasoning, and a deeper appreciation for the elegant precision of mathematics. So, the next time you encounter an equation, remember that you're not just looking at numbers and symbols; you're looking at a carefully constructed statement of balance, a puzzle with a solution, and a gateway to understanding the fundamental workings of the universe.

An equation in mathematics is a powerful statement that expresses the equality of two mathematical expressions, connected by the equals sign. At its core, an equation represents a balance—like a scale where both sides hold the same value, even if the forms differ. Whether simple or complex, equations serve as the fundamental language through which mathematical

relationships are defined, analyzed, and communicated.

Understanding the Structure and Meaning

An equation typically takes the form of left-hand side equals right-hand side, such as $2x + 3 = 7$. Here, the expression on the left— $2x$ plus 3—must equal the value on the right, seven. This structure allows mathematicians to represent unknown quantities, unknown relationships, or variables that shift within defined constraints. Solving an equation means identifying the values of the unknowns that make the equality true, transforming abstract symbols into concrete answers. This process bridges conjecture and proof, enabling precise conclusions based on logical deduction.

Key Insights and Mathematical Foundations

Equations are not merely tools for computation—they embody deep conceptual insights. They reveal patterns, define geometric shapes, model physical phenomena, and establish conditions under which systems behave predictably. For instance, in algebra, linear equations describe straight lines on a graph, while quadratic equations capture parabolic curves and complex behaviors. In calculus, equations govern rates of change and area under curves, forming the basis of optimization and motion analysis. By expressing relationships between quantities, equations enable mathematicians to generalize observations into universal principles, supporting reasoning across diverse domains.

Real-World Applications and Practical Impact

The applications of equations permeate science, engineering, economics, and everyday life. Engineers rely on differential equations to design stable structures and predict fluid dynamics. Physicists use equations like $E=mc^2$ to explain energy-mass equivalence. Economists model supply and demand with linear and nonlinear equations to forecast market trends. Even simple equations help in budgeting, calculating distances, or determining time needed for tasks. By translating real-world problems into mathematical form, equations become indispensable tools for analysis, prediction, and decision-making.

Benefits and Educational Value

Learning to work with equations cultivates critical thinking and logical rigor. It trains the mind to approach problems systematically, break complex systems into manageable parts, and validate solutions through verification. In education, mastering equations is a gateway to advanced mathematics, enabling deeper understanding of functions, calculus, and beyond. Beyond academics, the ability to interpret equations fosters numeracy and problem-solving skills essential in technology-driven societies, empowering individuals to engage meaningfully with data and models.

The Future of Equations in Math and Technology

As artificial intelligence, data science, and computational modeling advance, equations continue

to evolve in relevance. Modern algorithms rely on equation-based frameworks to solve optimization problems, simulate systems, and train machine learning models. In cryptography, equations secure digital communication through intricate mathematical structures. The future promises even greater integration of equations with emerging technologies, from quantum computing to climate modeling, where precise mathematical descriptions drive innovation and discovery. Yet, the essence remains unchanged: equations remain the timeless language of mathematical truth, balancing clarity and complexity in an ever-changing world.

What is an Equation in Math?

Unveiling the Heart of Mathematical Expression

In the vast and intricate landscape of mathematics, few concepts are as fundamental and pervasive as the equation. From the simplest arithmetic problems encountered in early education to the most complex scientific endeavors, equations serve as the bedrock upon which understanding and discovery are built. But what exactly *is* an equation in math? Beyond its ubiquitous presence, lies a powerful tool for representing relationships, solving unknowns, and modeling the world around us. This article delves deep into the definition, components, types, and profound significance of equations in mathematics, offering a comprehensive and analytical exploration for learners and enthusiasts alike.

Defining the Equation: More Than Just a Statement

At its core, a mathematical equation is a statement that asserts the equality of two expressions. Think of it as a balanced scale. On one side, you have one collection of mathematical objects (numbers, variables, operations), and on the other side, you have another collection. The equality symbol ($=$) is the fulcrum, indicating that both sides hold precisely the same value or represent the same quantity. This seemingly simple concept opens up a universe of possibilities in mathematical problem-solving.

It's crucial to distinguish an equation from an inequality, which uses symbols like ' $<$ ' (less than) or ' $>$ ' (greater than) to indicate an unequal relationship. An equation, however, insists on a perfect balance. If you change the value on one side, you must proportionally change the value on the other to maintain the truth of the statement. This principle of balance is central to manipulating and solving equations.

The Anatomy of an Equation: Building Blocks of Balance

Every equation, regardless of its complexity, is constructed from several key components:

1. **Expressions:** These are combinations of numbers, variables, and mathematical operations

(addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, exponents, etc.). For instance, ' $5 + x$ ' is an expression, as is ' $2y - 3$ '.

2. **The Equality Sign (=):** This symbol is the non-negotiable heart of any equation. It signifies that the expression on its left is mathematically equivalent to the expression on its right.
3. **Variables (or Unknowns):** Often represented by letters like ' x ', ' y ', or ' z ', variables are placeholders for unknown values. The goal of solving many equations is to determine the specific value(s) of these variables that make the equation true. This concept of finding unknown quantities is a core tenet of algebraic equations.
4. **Constants:** These are fixed numerical values that do not change. In the expression ' $5 + x$ ', ' 5 ' is a constant.
5. **Operations:** These are the mathematical actions performed on numbers and variables, such as addition (+), subtraction (-), multiplication (*), division (/), and exponentiation (^).

The True Statement: When an Equation Holds

An equation is considered "true" or "satisfied" when the values of the variables (if any) make both sides of the equality have the same numerical value. For example, in the equation ' $x + 3 = 7$ ', the equation is true when $x = 4$, because $4 + 3$ equals 7. When x has any other value, the equation is false.

The Spectrum of Equations: From Simple to Sophisticated

Equations come in a dazzling array of forms, each suited for representing different types of mathematical relationships and problems. Understanding these categories is essential for effective mathematical reasoning.

Algebraic Equations: The Pillars of High School Math

Algebraic equations form the backbone of much of mathematics. They involve variables and mathematical operations. We can further categorize them by the highest power of the variable present.

1. **Linear Equations:** These are equations where the highest power of the variable is 1. They can be written in the general form $ax + b = c$, where ' a ', ' b ', and ' c ' are constants and ' x ' is the variable. Graphically, linear equations represent straight lines. Examples include ' $2x - 5 = 9$ ' and ' $y = 3x + 1$ '. Solving these often involves isolating the variable.
2. **Quadratic Equations:** Characterized by the presence of a variable raised to the power of 2, quadratic equations typically take the form $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$. These equations are fundamental in describing parabolic curves and have wide applications in physics and engineering. Solving them often requires factoring, completing the square, or using the quadratic formula.
3. **Polynomial Equations:** This is a broader category encompassing equations with variables raised to any non-negative integer power. A cubic equation, for instance, has a highest power of 3 (e.g., $x^3 - 2x^2 + x - 5 = 0$), and quartic equations have a highest power of 4. The degree

of a polynomial equation significantly influences the methods used for its solution.

Transcendental Equations: Beyond Polynomials

These equations involve transcendental functions, such as trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions. They often defy simple algebraic solutions and may require numerical methods to approximate their roots. Examples include ' $\sin(x) = x/2$ ' or ' $e^x = x + 2$ '.

Differential Equations: Describing Change

Differential equations are perhaps the most powerful type of equation for modeling real-world phenomena. They don't just describe relationships between variables; they describe relationships between a function and its derivatives. This makes them ideal for studying rates of change, which are ubiquitous in nature, from the spread of diseases to the motion of celestial bodies. Solving differential equations is a cornerstone of advanced mathematics and scientific modeling.

Matrix Equations: Systems and Transformations

Matrix equations involve matrices, which are rectangular arrays of numbers. They are used to represent and solve systems of linear equations, perform transformations in geometry, and analyze data in fields like computer graphics and machine learning. A simple matrix equation might look like $AX = B$, where A and B are matrices and X is the matrix we want to solve for.

The Power of Solving Equations: Unlocking Knowledge

The ability to solve equations is what gives them their immense power. Solving an equation means finding the value(s) of the variable(s) that make the equation true. This process is not arbitrary; it relies on a set of logical rules and properties of equality.

The Golden Rules of Equation Solving: Maintaining Balance

The fundamental principle guiding equation solving is to maintain the equality at all times. This means that any operation performed on one side of the equation must also be performed on the other side. Common techniques include:

1. **Addition/Subtraction Property of Equality:** If $a = b$, then $a + c = b + c$ and $a - c = b - c$.
2. **Multiplication/Division Property of Equality:** If $a = b$, then $ac = bc$ and $a/c = b/c$ (provided $c \neq 0$).

By applying these properties systematically, we can isolate the variable and determine its value. This systematic approach is a hallmark of mathematical rigor.

When Equations Have Solutions: Understanding Roots and

Zeros

The values of the variables that satisfy an equation are called its **roots** or **solutions**. For polynomial equations, these are often referred to as **zeros**. The number of roots an equation has can vary. A linear equation typically has one solution, while a quadratic equation can have zero, one, or two real solutions. The study of the existence and nature of solutions is a significant branch of mathematics.

Equations as Models: Describing Reality with Symbols

Beyond the realm of pure mathematics, equations serve as indispensable tools for modeling and understanding the physical world. Scientists, engineers, economists, and many others rely on equations to represent complex phenomena.

From Physics to Finance: Equations in Action

1. **Physics:** Newton's laws of motion (e.g., $F = ma$), Einstein's theory of relativity (e.g., $E=mc^2$), and Maxwell's equations for electromagnetism are all iconic examples of equations that describe fundamental physical principles.
2. **Engineering:** Structural engineers use equations to calculate the stress and strain on bridges, while electrical engineers use them to design circuits.
3. **Economics:** Supply and demand curves are often represented by equations to model market behavior.
4. **Biology:** Population growth models and models of biochemical reactions frequently employ differential equations.

The ability to translate real-world problems into mathematical equations allows us to analyze, predict, and manipulate these phenomena with a precision that would otherwise be impossible. This interdisciplinary application of mathematical equations highlights their universal importance.

The Enduring Significance of the Equation

In conclusion, an equation in math is far more than just a string of symbols. It is a fundamental statement of equality, a powerful tool for representing relationships, a pathway to uncovering unknown quantities, and a crucial language for describing the universe. From the basic arithmetic of childhood to the frontiers of scientific research, equations are the bedrock of mathematical thought and innovation. Their elegance lies in their simplicity, and their power lies in their universality, making them one of the most vital concepts in all of human knowledge.

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Questions & Answers About what is an equation in math

No	Question	Answer
1	What's the simplest way to explain an equation to someone who's never seen one before?	Imagine a balanced scale. An equation is like that scale, showing that two things are exactly the same in value. For example, $2 + 3 = 5$ means that the total of 2 and 3 is the same as 5.
2	Why do we even need equations in math? What are they used for?	Equations are powerful tools for solving problems and representing relationships. They're used everywhere from figuring out how much change you'll get at the store to designing bridges, predicting weather, and understanding complex scientific phenomena.
3	What's the deal with the equals sign (=)? Is it just for showing the answer?	The equals sign is the heart of an equation! It signifies that the expression on the left side has the exact same value as the expression on the right side. It's about balance, not just getting an answer.

4	I've seen equations with letters like 'x' and 'y'. What do those mean?	Those letters are called variables. They represent unknown numbers or quantities. Equations with variables are often used to find out what those unknown values are, which is a key part of solving problems.
5	Are all equations about numbers? Can they involve other things?	While most common equations involve numbers, the concept of an equation applies more broadly. In logic and computer science, for instance, you might have equations representing relationships between sets or conditions. But in basic math, it's usually about numerical values.
6	If an equation is a statement of equality, how do we 'solve' it? What does that even mean?	Solving an equation means finding the value(s) of the variable(s) that make the equation true. It's like finding the right key to unlock the balance of the scale, so both sides are perfectly equal when you plug in that value.

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