

$x^2 - 3x + 4$   
 $3x + 6 = 8$   
 $3 = 1 + 2$   
 $3 = 4$   
 $(2x + 1) = x + (x + 1)$

An equation is

- 1) two expressions related by an equals sign
- 2) two expressions separated by an equals sign
- 3) a statement that shows an equality relationship between two expressions (that is either true or false)
- 4) two expressions joined by an equals sign.

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An equation is a statement of equality between two expressions.

$3x + 6 = 8$

The solution (only solution) is  
 $x = \frac{2}{3}$

Definition: a solution to an equation is a value for the variable(s) in it that makes the equation true.

Solving an equation means finding all solutions.

How do we prove  $x = \frac{2}{3}$  is all the solutions to  $3x + 6 = 8$ ?

• Plug it in.  
 LHS  $3(\frac{2}{3}) + 6 = 2 + 6 = 8$   
 RHS  $= 8$

If  $x = \frac{2}{3}$  then  $3x + 6 = 8$ .  
 (so  $x = \frac{2}{3}$  is a solution).

• Manipulate the equation.  
 $3x + 6 = 8$   
 $3x = 2$   
 $x = \frac{2}{3}$

If  $3x + 6 = 8$  then  $x = \frac{2}{3}$

Rules of arithmetic.

- You can add or multiply two numbers and get a number as an answer.
- $x + 0 = x$ ,  $1 \cdot x = x$  for all  $x$
- Commutative property of addition ( $x + y = y + x$ ) and multiplication ( $xy = yx$ ).
- Associative property of addition and multiplication  
 $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$   
 $(ab)c = a(bc)$
- Inverses
- Distributive law
- Transitivity of equality
- If  $a = b$  then  $ac = bc$

What numbers are we talking about?