

The systems in echelon form are those in that every equation has one unknown less than the previous one.

See the following example:

$$\begin{cases} x + y + z = 3 \\ y - z = 2 \\ z = -1 \end{cases}$$

It is simple to solve.
We start with $z = -1$ and we replace it in the second equation. We obtain $y + 1 = 2$, so $y = 1$.
We substitute now in the first equation: $x + 1 - 1 = 3$; so $x = 3$.
The solution is then $(3, 1, -1)$ and it is unique.

Obviously it can happen that there are more unknowns than equations. The system will not have a unique solution. Lets have, for example,

$$\begin{cases} x + y + z = 4 \\ y + z = 2 \end{cases}$$

In this case we will give to z any value (which we will call λ) and follow the same procedure, substituting in the other equations. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} z &= \lambda \\ y &= 2 - \lambda \\ x &= 2 \end{aligned}$$