Lesson 19: Rearranging Formulas

Classwork

Exercises 1–3

1. Solve each equation for *.*  For part (c), remember a variable symbol, like , , and , represents a number.

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1. Compare your work in parts (a) through (c) above. Did you have to do anything differently to solve for in part (c)?
2. Solve the equation for . The variable symbols , , and , represent numbers.

**Example 1: Rearranging Familiar Formulas**

The area of a rectangle is . The formula for area is .

* If the width is , what is the length ?
* If the width is , what is the length ?
* Rearrange the area formula to solve for .
* Verify that the area formula, solved for , will give the same results for as having solved for in the original area formula.

Exercises 4–5

1. Solve each problem two ways. First, substitute the given values, and solve for the given variable. Then, solve for the given variable, and substitute the given values.
   1. The perimeter formula for a rectangle is , where represents the perimeter, represents the length, and represents the width. Calculate when and .
   2. The area formula for a triangle is , where represents the area, represents the length of the base, and represents the height. Calculate when and .
2. Rearrange each formula to solve for the specified variable. Assume no variable is equal to .
   1. Given ,
      1. Solve for .
      2. Solve for .
   2. Given ,
      1. Solve for .
      2. Solve for .

**Example 2: Comparing Equations with One Variable to Those with More Than One Variable**

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| **Equation Containing More Than One Variable** | **Related Equation** |
| Solve for . | Solve for . |
| Solve for . | Solve for . |

Problem Set

Lesson Summary

The properties and reasoning used to solve equations apply regardless of how many variables appear in an equation or formula. Rearranging formulas to solve for a specific variable can be useful when solving applied problems.

For Problems 1–8, solve for .

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| 1. Solve for . | 1. Solve for . | 1. Solve for . | 1. Solve for . |
| 1. Solve for . | 1. Solve for . | 1. Solve for . | 1. Solve for . |

1. The science teacher wrote three equations on a board that relate velocity, , distance traveled, , and the time to travel the distance, , on the board.

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Would you need to memorize all three equations, or could you just memorize one? Explain your reasoning.