Distributing Terms

About These Problems

Distributing terms involves multiplying a coefficient out and then solving the equation using algebraic properties. These are often coupled with word problems.

Question. Solve for x if y = 1.

$$3*(x+2y) = 14$$

1. 1/2
2. 1/3
3. 1/4
4. 1/5
5. 1/6

Answer. 2: Distribute the 3 to the entire portion in parentheses. Substitute y as 1. Gather all the x terms on the left side and the constants on the right side.

$$6x+12y = 14 \quad 6x = 2 \quad x = 1/3$$