



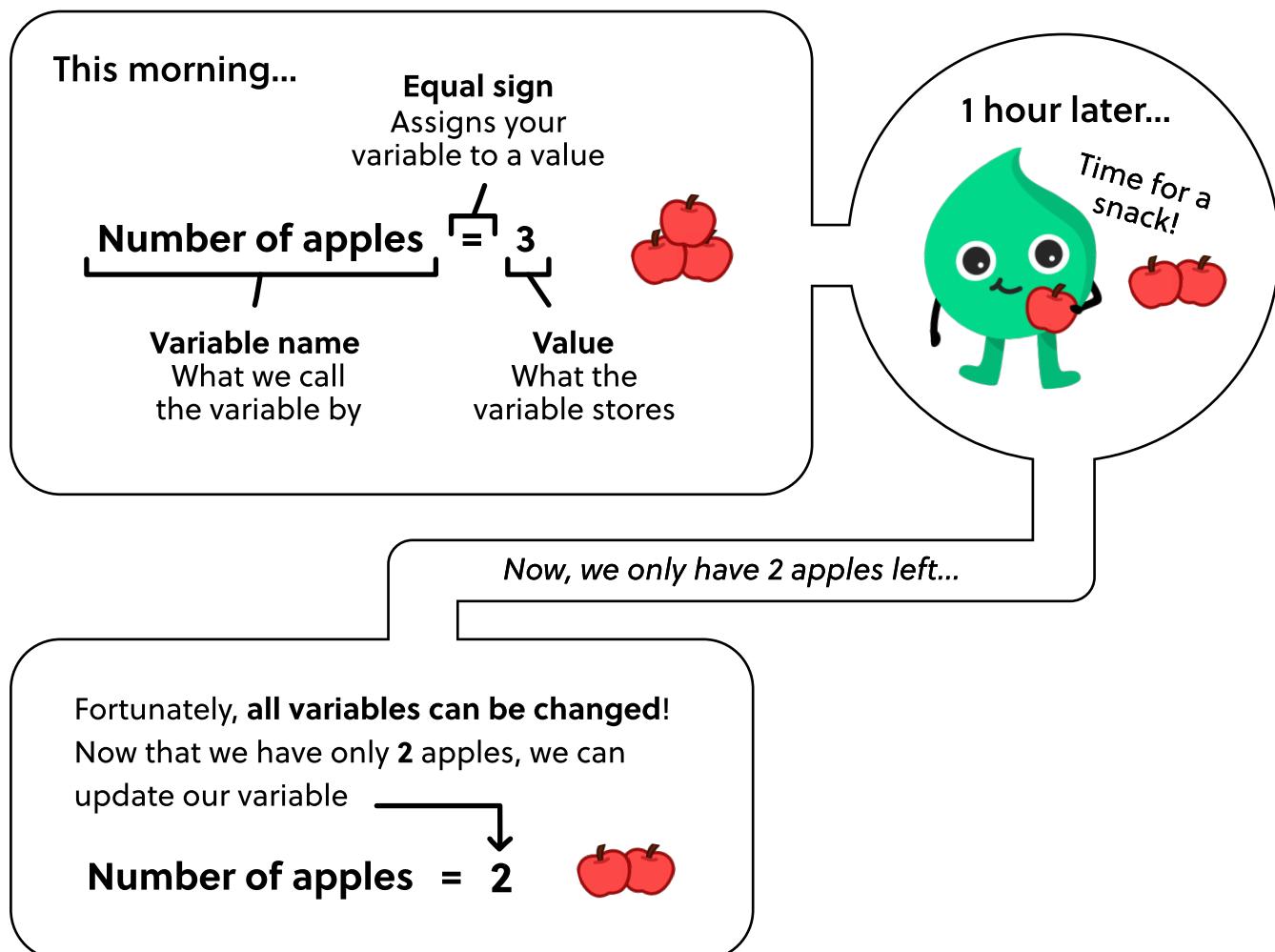
# Vivid Variables

## Welcome to Decomosphere!

Ready, set, learn! Dive into the grassy lands of Decomosphere with Dot and learn all about breaking down problems into smaller parts. Today, we'll be starting off our journey with variables!

## What are variables?

In computer science, we use **variables** to store any type of information. Every variable has a **name** that we use to call it by, and a **value** that the variable stores. Let's take a look at how we can make our own variables!



## More Variables!

Instead of just storing numbers, variables can also store words, names, etc! Let's take a look at more examples of variables:

### All About Dot!



#### Demy's Variables

Name = Dot

Home = Decomosphere

Favorite color = Green

Favorite food = Apples

Number of siblings = 2

Lucky number = 35

In our next example, we'll explore how these variables can be split into different categories.

## Trash Sort

Variables are split up into different categories depending on their value. To explain this, let's take a look at how we separate trash into three bins: Trash, Compost, and Recycle.

All of our waste either belongs in the Trash, Compost, or Recycle bin.

Below each bin are a couple examples of what goes where!

### Trash



Straws



Plastic bags



### Compost



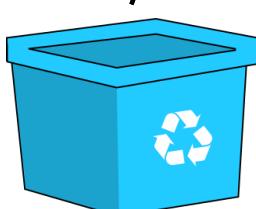
Apple core



Banana peel



### Recycle



Paper



Newspaper



Similar to how waste was sorted into the trash, compost, and recycling bins in our trash sort example, variables are also sorted into different categories called **data types**.

## Snowball Fight!

Using your knowledge of variables and data types, you will be using variables to fill in a silly paragraph!

### Setup

- On your 'Silly Paragraph Variables' page, you will find 10 rectangles. **Each rectangle will represent a variable** from the Variable Names List below (You will have 10 variables in total).
- Assign each variable a **name** from the Variable Names List, a **value** you come up with, and a **data type** (String, Integer, or Double) depending on the value. Make sure that the number for each variable matches up with the number of its rectangle (ex. The sport variable belongs on the 2nd rectangle). When you're finished, cut out your pieces along the dotted lines.

#### Variable Names List

(Assign each variable a **name** from this list)

- |                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Weather         | 6. Past-tense action verb |
| 2. Sport           | 7. Price                  |
| 3. Outdoor place   | 8. Adverb                 |
| 4. Plural animal   | 9. Plural animal 2        |
| 5. Favorite number | 10. Adjective             |

#### Data Types

(Assign each variable a **data type**)

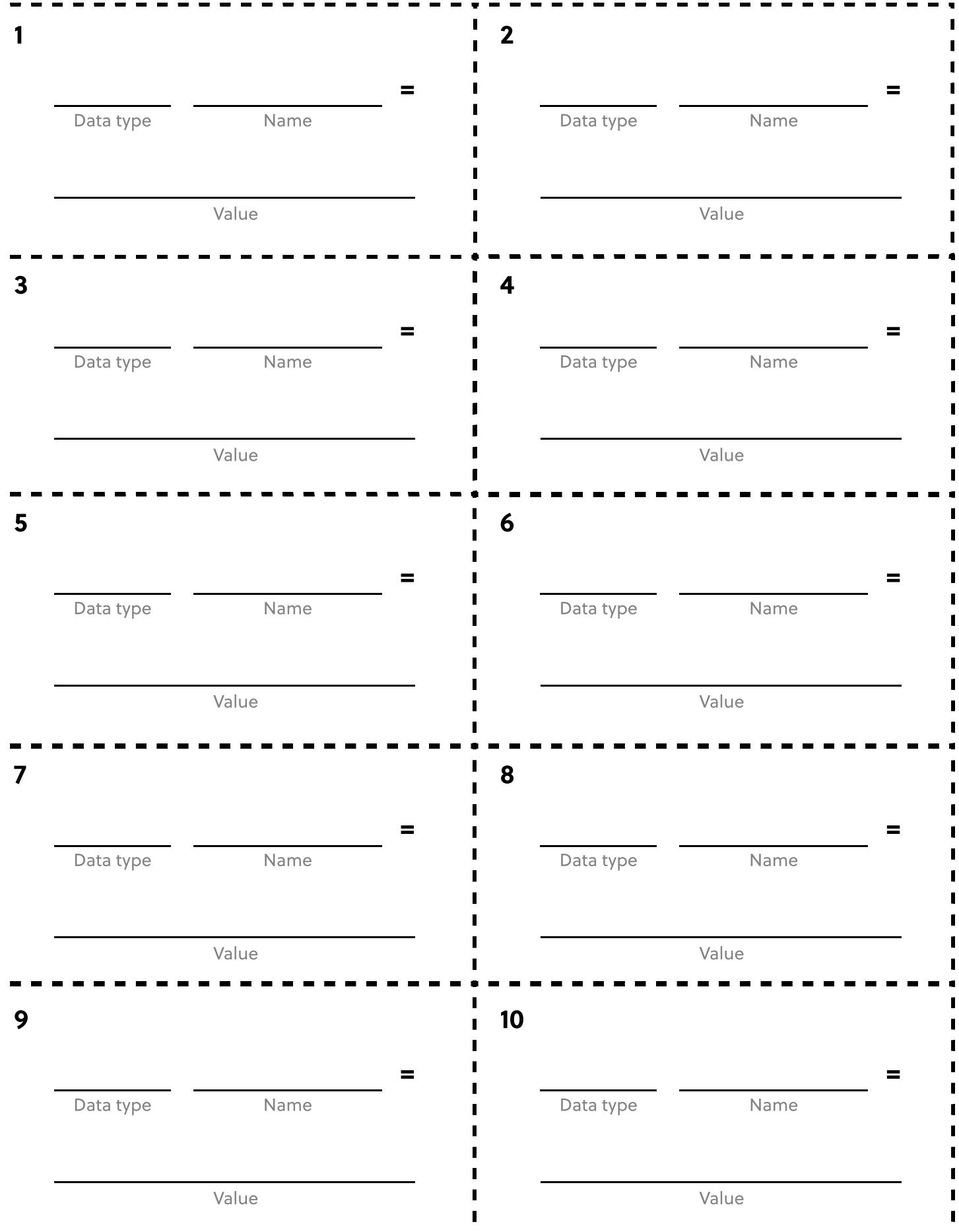
- String  
Integer  
Double



### How to Play

- Sit in a circle with a group of 4-10 people.
- Crumple and ball up the first variable from your stack to form a "snowball". (Check the number on your snowball—This should be the same for everyone!) When everyone has their snowballs ready, throw them into the center of your circle.
- Take one snowball from the center of your circle. (Don't open it up yet!)

- Repeat the process of throwing and taking snowballs with your other 9 pieces of paper. After this, everyone should have 10 snowballs each!
- It's finally time to open all of your snowballs! On the 'Silly Paragraph' page, use your snowballs to fill in the missing variables in the paragraph. When you're done, read aloud your silly paragraph to your group!



## Silly Paragraph: A Day in Decomosphere

To complete your silly paragraph, use your snowballs to write in the value of each variable (the variable names are below the missing blanks)!

It was a nice, \_\_\_\_\_ day in Decomosphere—the perfect weather  
Weather

for outdoor sports! I quickly gathered my friends to play some

\_\_\_\_\_ and enjoy the summer breeze. But when we finally arrived at  
Sport

the \_\_\_\_\_ to play, it started to rain \_\_\_\_\_. It  
Outdoor Place Plural Animal

was crazy to say the least, not even a minute has passed and I had already seen

\_\_\_\_\_ of them! Since it was raining so heavily, I  
Favorite Number

\_\_\_\_\_ to the nearest store to buy a sturdy umbrella for a striking  
Past-tense Action Verb

price of \_\_\_\_\_. With my new umbrella, I  
Price

\_\_\_\_\_ returned back home, only to find that it was now raining  
Adverb

\_\_\_\_\_. What a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ day!  
Plural Animal 2 Adjective