

ALGEBRAIC EQUATIONS

What are algebraic equations?

Algebraic equations are **mathematical equations that contain a letter or variable, which represents a number.**

To solve an algebraic equation, **inverse operations** are used. Inverse operations are performing the opposite operation to what is being performed in the equation. The inverse operation of addition is subtraction and the inverse operation of subtraction is addition. Multiplication and division are the inverse operations of each other.

There are different types of algebraic equations. A **one-step** algebraic equation is an equation that can be solved in one step.

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PREVIEW

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- Algebraic equations are solved using the inverse operations. To solve the equation $n - 52 = 38$, look to see what operation is being performed in the problem, subtraction. The inverse operation of subtraction is addition. **The problem can be solved using the inverse operation** of addition as the example shows:

$$\begin{array}{r} n - 52 = 38 \\ + 52 \quad +52 \\ \hline n = 90 \end{array}$$

Since 52 was subtracted in the initial problem, it will be added with inverse operations. The rule when dealing with equations is whatever is done to one side of the equation must be done to the other side. So

