NEBRASKA



ALGEBRA I

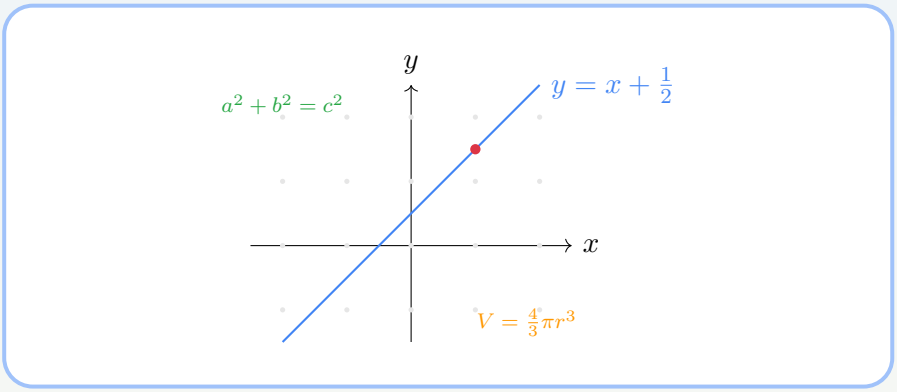
MADE RIDICULOUSLY SIMPLE

★ THE ULTIMATE STUDY GUIDE TO ACE ALGEBRA I ★

Nebraska Algebra I

Made Ridiculously Simple

Comprehensive Practice, Challenging Exercises, and Strategic Guidance for Complete Test-Day Confidence



Reza Nazari

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HS.A.2.a	Analyze and explain the properties used in solving equations, inequalities, systems of linear equations, systems of linear inequalities, and literal equations.
HS.A.2.b	Generate expressions in equivalent forms by using algebraic properties to make different characteristics or features visible.
HS.A.2.c	Analyze equations and inequalities to determine and apply efficient methods to solve and use appropriate technology as needed.
HS.A.2.d	Calculate the slope (rate of change) of a line given coordinate points, a graph, or a table of values.
HS.A.2.e	Write and graph equations of functions (linear, absolute value, quadratic, and exponential) using the points of interest of the function.
HS.A.2.g	Perform and explain operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and factoring on polynomials.
HS.A.3.a	Analyze and model authentic situations using various representations and appropriate technology.
HS.A.3.c	Identify and predict appropriate solutions to equations given context and domain/range (e.g., extraneous solutions, imaginary solutions, no solution, infinitely many solutions).
HS.D.2.a	Identify appropriate ways to summarize and then represent the distribution of univariate data and bivariate data through the construction of histograms, dot plots, stem plots, box plots, cumulative relative frequency graphs, time plots, circle graphs, stacked bar graphs, and mosaic bar graphs by hand or with technology.
HS.D.2.b	Describe the shape, identify any outliers, and determine the spread of a data set.
HS.D.2.c	Select and determine the appropriate measure of center based on the shape of a distribution and/or the presence of outliers.
HS.D.2.e	Summarize categorical data for two categories in two-way frequency tables. Interpret relative frequencies in the context of the data and recognize possible associations and trends in the data.
HS.D.2.h	Measure the strength of association using correlation coefficients for regression curves and interpret their meanings for the model.
HS.D.2.j	Recognize and explain when arguments based on data confuse correlation with causation.
HS.N.1.a	Select, apply, and explain the method of computation when problem solving using real numbers (e.g., models, mental computation, paper-pencil, technology).
HS.N.1.h	Use scientific notation to appropriately represent large and small quantities.

HS.N.2.a Extend the properties of exponents to rational numbers.

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1.4 Introduction to Equations and Solutions

HS.A.2.c

An equation is a mathematical sentence that says two expressions are equal, and your job is to find the value that makes it true. In this section you will learn what it means for a number to be a solution of an equation, how to check a solution by plugging it back in, and how to translate everyday word problems into algebraic equations. This is where algebra starts to feel like detective work — you are finding the unknown!

Key Concepts & Quick Review

What Is an Equation? An **equation** is a mathematical sentence that uses an equals sign (=) to show that two expressions have the same value. For example, $2x + 3 = 11$ says "two times some number plus three equals eleven."

Solution of an Equation: A value that makes the equation **true** when substituted for the variable. To check, replace the variable with the value and simplify both sides. If both sides are equal, the value is a solution.

Equivalent Equations: Two equations are **equivalent** when they have exactly the same solution(s). You can produce an equivalent equation by adding or subtracting the same number on both sides, or by multiplying or dividing both sides by the same nonzero number. For example, $x + 3 = 10$ and $x = 7$ are equivalent — both are true only when $x = 7$.

Translating Words to Equations: Key phrases signal operations: "sum" or "more than" $\rightarrow +$, "difference" or "less than" $\rightarrow -$, "product" or "times" $\rightarrow \times$, "quotient" or "divided by" $\rightarrow \div$, "is" or "equals" $\rightarrow =$.

Examples

① Is $x = 5$ a solution of $3x - 7 = 8$?

Substitute 5 for x: $3(5) - 7 = 15 - 7 = 8$. The left side equals the right side ($8 = 8$), so $x = 5$ **is** a solution.

Answer: *Yes*

② Translate into an equation and check if $n = 4$: "Six more than twice a number is 14."

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"Twice a number" is $2n$; "six more than" means $+6$; "is" means $=$. Equation: $2n + 6 = 14$. Substitute $n = 4$: $2(4) + 6 = 8 + 6 = 14$. ✓Since $14 = 14$, the value $n = 4$ is a solution.

Answer: *$2n + 6 = 14$; Yes, $n = 4$ is a solution*

Practice Problems

Determine whether the given value is a solution (Yes/No), or translate the sentence into an equation. Write your answer on the line.

1. $x + 9 = 14;\ x = 5$? _____

2. $2x - 3 = 7;\ x = 5$? _____

3. $4a + 1 = 17;\ a = 3$? _____

4. $5n - 10 = 0;\ n = 2$? _____

5. $\frac{x}{3} = 6;\ x = 18$? _____

6. $3(y - 2) = 12;\ y = 6$? _____

7. "A number plus 8 is 15" → _____

8. "Three times a number is 21" → _____

9. "A number minus 4 equals 10" → _____

10. $7 - x = 3;\ x = 4$? _____

11. $2(x + 3) = 14;\ x = 4$? _____

12. "Half a number is 9" → _____

Study Tips

- To check a solution, always **substitute** the value back into the original equation and simplify both sides.
- When translating words, underline the key phrase that tells you the operation, and circle the word that means "=."
- An equation can have one solution, no solution, or many solutions. At this stage, focus on deciding whether a specific value works.

Word Problems

13. A gym membership costs a one-time sign-up fee of \$25 plus \$10 per month. After m months, the total cost is $10m + 25$. Carlos has paid \$75 so far. Write an equation and determine the number of months. _____

14. Priya says that $x = 3$ is a solution of $2x + 4 = 12$. Check whether $x = 3$ makes the equation true.

1.5 Personal Financial Literacy

HS.A.3.a

Algebra is not just for the classroom — it helps you make smart money decisions in real life. In this section you will learn how to calculate simple and compound interest, compare savings and loan options, and solve problems involving tax, commission, markup, and discount. You will also see how compounding works over time and why even small interest rates can make a big difference.

Key Concepts & Quick Review

Simple Interest: $I = Prt$, where P is the principal (starting amount), r is the annual interest rate (as a decimal), and t is the time in years. Total amount after t years: $A = P + Prt = P(1 + rt)$.

Compound Interest: $A = P\left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}$, where n is the number of times interest is compounded per year. When compounded annually, $n = 1$.

Percent Applications: Discount: Sale Price = Original − Original × discount rate. Tax: Total = Price + Price × tax rate. Commission: Earnings = sales × commission rate.

Examples

① You deposit \$500 in an account that earns 4% simple interest per year. How much interest do you earn in 3 years? What is the total amount?

Use $I = Prt$: $I = 500 \times 0.04 \times 3 = 60$. Total amount $A = 500 + 60 = 560$.

Answer: *Interest* = \$60; *Total* = \$560

② You invest \$1,000 at 5% interest compounded annually. What is the balance after 2 years?

Use $A = P(1 + r)^t$ with $P = 1000$, $r = 0.05$, $t = 2$: $A = 1000(1.05)^2 = 1000(1.1025) = 1102.50$.

Answer: \$1,102.50

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