

Section 1.1

Turning Plain English into Algebra

In algebra, simple words can be turned into algebraic expressions. Expressions that define mathematical relationships between variables.

Examples:

PLAIN ENGLISH	ALGEBRA
1. The product of five and six is thirty.	$5 \times 6 = 30$ (product is the result of multiplication)
2. The quotient of thirty and five is six.	$\frac{30}{5} = 6$ (quotient is the result of division)
3. The sum of three and four is seven.	$3 + 4 = 7$ (sum is the result of addition)
4. The difference of twelve and four is eight.	$12 - 4 = 8$ (difference is the result of subtraction)
5. A number	any letter will do ($a, b, c, d, \dots, w, x, y, z$)
6. Twice a number	$2x$
7. Four times a number	$4a$
8. Three consecutive numbers	$x, (x+1), (x+2)$
9. If seven is added to a number...	$x + 7$ or $7 + x$
10. If ten is subtracted from a number...	$n - 10$ (backwards has a different meaning)
11. Eight less than twice a number	$2a - 8$
12. Five more than three times a number	$3y + 5$
13. A number to the fifth power plus three	$x^5 + 3$
14. Ten increased by half a number.	$10 + \frac{x}{2}$
15. The product of two numbers	xy
16. The square root of a number decreased by four.	$\sqrt{n} - 4$
17. Pete is three years older than twice the age of Nick.	$P = 2N + 3$ ("is" stands for equal)
18. Twice the sum of two numbers	$2(a + b)$
19. Seven times the difference of two numbers	$7(c - d)$
20. Three-fourth a number reduced by six.	$\frac{3x}{4} - 6$

21. Five is to six as ten is to twelve (<i>proportion</i>).	$\frac{5}{6} = \frac{10}{12}$
22. The sum of two numbers, squared.	$(a + b)^2$
23. The sum of two numbers squared.	$a^2 + b^2$
24. Mount Everest is higher than Pico Aconcagua.	$E > A$
25. David's score is at least as high as Pedro's.	$David \geq Pedro$
26. Sandra earns less than Francis.	$Sandra < Francis$

Practice:

Write the equivalent algebraic expression.

- Lesly is fourteen inches taller than Jim.
- The product of a number and the same number.
- Half a number, increased by twelve.
- The difference between two numbers.
- The difference of two squares.
- Three times a number, reduced by six.
- Jerry is three times Ralph's age.
- The sum of two consecutive numbers.
- Half a number, increased by seven.
- The addition of two squared numbers.
- Felix is five years younger than Mimi.
- In three years, Juan will be three times as old as Elaine.
- The boy has quarters and dimes.
- The difference between A and B is 500.
- Twice a number, plus three times another number.
- The girl is half her mother's age.
- Petra is 30 yards ahead of Jim.
- The difference between C and D is fifteen.
- The combined ages of Ed and Al is fifty six.
- Four times a number reduced by eight.
- Twice the sum of two numbers.
- Half the area of a circle.
- Three times the difference of two numbers.
- Twice a number, less the number increased by two.
- Three times a number increased by one-third the number.
- One third a number, increased by nine.
- His grandmother is four times his age.
- A centimeter is larger than a millimeter.
- Half a number is larger than one-third a number.
- Jack is at least as tall as Holly.
- Fred earns twice as much as Jordi.
- The quotient of two numbers is five.
- Twice a number, increased by seven, is five.
- The product of a number and its square root is nine.
- The ratio of two numbers is ten.
- The square of a number increased by the number.
- The cube of a number reduced by the square of the number.
- Laura is shorter than David and David is shorter than Mack.
- The baby is at least twenty-one inches long.
- Three times the sum of three numbers.
- Four times a number plus the product of the number and five.
- The difference of two numbers, squared.
- The square root of the sum of two numbers squared.
- The product of two consecutive numbers.
- Twice a number, increased by six.
- The square root of a number, increased by the cube of the number.
- The square root of twice the number.

Write the equivalent English sentence.

1. $x + y + z$
2. $a - b$
3. $2x - 7$
4. $\frac{c}{2} - 10$
5. $t > s$
6. $Mary + 3 = Susan$
7. $a - b = 8$
8. $2(x + y)$
9. $x + (x + 2) + (x + 4)$
10. $3x + 2x$
11. $4(a - b)$
12. $n + 8$
13. abc
14. $6x + 5$
15. $33 + 34 + 35 = 102$
16. $\sqrt{x} + 5$
17. $x^2 + y^2$
18. $(a^2 - b^2)$
19. $4g$
20. $\frac{x}{3} + 6$
21. $5 + d$
22. $a \geq b$
23. $c \leq d$
24. $3x + 4y - 7z$
25. $x(x - 4)$
26. $5N + 13D + 10Q = \$4.05$
27. $\angle A = \angle B$
28. $\frac{x+y}{2}$
29. $David > John > Carlos$
30. $x^3 - 17$
31. $8 - y$
32. $a + b - c$
33. $x - 5$
34. $4y + 4$
35. $\frac{b}{3} + 12$
36. $m < n$
37. $Pete = Joan + 10$
38. $a + b + c$
39. $x - y$
40. $4x - 8$
41. $\frac{x}{6} - 5$
42. $c > b$
43. $Carlos + 14 = Mark$
44. $m + n = 6$
45. $5(x - y)$
46. $x + (x + 1) + (x + 2)$
47. $4x - 6x$
48. $5(x - y)$
49. $n - 12$
50. xyz
51. $2x + 15$
52. $21 + 22 + 23$
53. $\sqrt{b} + 7$
54. $x^3 + y^3$
55. $(a^3 - b^3)$
56. $7f$
57. $\frac{x}{4} + 8$
58. $15 - p$
59. $a \leq -9$
60. $12 \geq j$
61. $5x + 3y + 8z$
62. $(y - 12)y$
63. $15N + D + 20Q = \$5.85$
64. $\angle 2F = \angle T$
65. $\frac{a - b}{4}$
66. $David < John < Carlos$
67. $x^5 + 34$
68. $\frac{c}{4} + 8$
69. $c > d$
70. $Jerry + Paco = 40$