

3.5 Part 2 – Solving Multi-step equations

Steps:

① ➤ Simplify each side of the equation first

- usually the distributive property or $\text{DP} \quad -3(x+4) \rightarrow -3x-12$
- combining like terms $\text{CLT} \quad x + 5 + 3x - 2 \rightarrow 4x + 3$

② ➤ add or subtract the constant away from the variable

③ ➤ multiply or divide the number with the variable

Examples:

$$-13 \\ 1. \quad -8d - 5d + 2 + 7d = 62 + 10$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -6d + 3 \\ \hline -6d \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 72 \\ + 3 \\ \hline 75 \\ -6 \\ \hline d = -12.5 \end{array}$$

$$\text{or } \boxed{-\frac{25}{2}} \quad \boxed{-12\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$2. \quad -4(m + 3) = 24$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -4m - 12 = 24 \\ +12 \\ \hline -4m = 36 \\ -4 \\ \hline m = -9 \end{array}$$

$$3. \quad 4p + 5 - 7p = 1$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -3p + 5 = 1 \\ -5 \\ \hline -3p = -4 \\ -3 \\ \hline p = \frac{4}{3} \end{array}$$

* leave as a fraction if repeating decimal!

$$4. \quad 3(2n-7) = 5 + 7 - 3$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6n - 21 = 9 \\ +21 \\ \hline 6n = 30 \\ 6 \\ \hline n = 5 \end{array}$$

$$5. \quad 144 = -12(x + 5)$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 144 = -12x - 60 \\ +60 \\ \hline 204 = -12x \\ -12 \\ \hline -17 = x \end{array}$$

$$6. \quad 2(n + 5) = -2$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2n + 10 & = & -2 \\ -10 & & -10 \\ \hline 2n & = & -12 \\ \cancel{2} & & \cancel{2} \\ \boxed{n = -6} & & \end{array}$$

$$7. \quad 7c - 2c = 45$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 5c & = & 45 \\ \cancel{5} & & \cancel{5} \\ \hline c & = & 9 \end{array}$$

$$8. \quad 14a + 35a - 43 = 447$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 49a & - 43 & = 447 \\ + 43 & & + 43 \\ \hline 49a & = & 490 \\ \cancel{49} & & \cancel{49} \\ \hline a & = & 10 \end{array}$$

$$9. \quad \cancel{4} + 2.2h = -3.7$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} -4 & & \\ \hline 2.2h & = & -7.7 \\ \hline 2.2 & & 2.2 \end{array}$$
$$\boxed{h = -3.5}$$