

Evaluating Algebraic Expressions

Understanding variables and how they are written

Unit
Algebraic Expressions

Writing Algebraic Expressions

Lesson Topic
Writing Algebraic Expressions

1. Identify the variable (the letter and what it stands for)

Writing an algebraic expression with one variable and one constant from a word problem



6. Substitute the variable for a reasonable number and see if your expression makes sense

2. Identify the constant (the number and what does it mean)

3. Identify what the expression is being used to solve (what are you trying to find out?)

4. Determine the relationship between the variable and the constant (choose an operation: +, -, x or ÷)

5. Write the expression

Discussion

Relationship between lesson and unit:
In order to eventually use an algebraic expression to solve a problem, you have to know how to write it and what it means.

Relationship between lesson and daily life:
Writing an algebraic expression saves time – you just have to write one expression, and you can use it to stand for many equations.
There are many useful real-life formulas that are algebraic: $d/t = r$; $I = prt$, etc.

Self-Test Questions

- What is the variable and what does it stand for? (1)
- What is the constant and what does it mean? (2)
- What is the purpose of the expression (what are you trying to find out)? (3)
- What is the relationship between the variable and the constant? (4)
- How do you write the expression? (5)
- Does your expression make sense? (6)

Tasks/Strategies

- Make a chart breaking down all the steps
- Use word clues to choose the correct operation
- Substitute the variable for a reasonable number and see if you get a reasonable result.

Pgs. 42- 43	Variable and what it means	Constant and what it means	What you want to find out	Operation	Expression	Does it make sense?
1.	h = how much Arnie has grown since last birthday	144 centimeters – how tall Arnie was at last birthday	How tall is Arnie right now?	Addition	$144 + h$	Yes $144+5 = 149$ centimeters
2.						
3.						
9.						
10.						

