

## STRATEGIES TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS

## Term

Terms can be numbers, variables or a combination of numbers and variables connected by multiplication or division.

Example 1

$$5x - 7 = 8$$

5x, -7 and 8 are terms.

Example 2

$$4 - 2b = 15$$

4, -2b and 15 are terms.

**Variable** A variable is a letter that represents an unknown number or value. Example 1

$$5x - 7 = 8$$

x is the variable.

Example 2

14 = 8b + 1

b is the variable.

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Coefficient  
A coefficient is a number joined to a variable by  
multiplication. In algebra, the coefficient is always  
written before the variable.  
Example 1  

$$5x - 7 = 8$$
  
5 is the coefficient.  
Example 2  
 $14 = 8b + 1$   
8 is the coefficient.  
Expression  
An algebraic expression involves more than one term  
connected by operations.  
Example 1  
 $8b + 1$   
 $8b + 1$   
 $8b + 1$   
is an expression.

Example 2

5x - 7 = 8

5x-7 is an expression.

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## Equation

An equation must contain an equal sign (=) and link terms equal in value.

Example 1

$$5x - 7 = 8$$

5x - 7 = 8 is an equation as it contains an = sign and links terms of equal value.

Example 2

## 8*b* + 1

8b+1 is NOT an equation as it does not contain an = sign.



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. 18	<b>4.</b> 2
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lutions to Questions	
• 2 <i>x</i> , 3, 13	{ <b>2.</b> 3
• g	4. y+2
3x = 12	6.9x, 3, 12
• 8	8. x
. 3c + 2	10. 4b-4=0
	210

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