

Guide to solving a two-step equation

ex. $3x + 4 = 28$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3x + 4 = 28 \\ -4 \quad -4 \end{array}$$

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$$3x = 24$$

$$\frac{3x}{3} = \frac{24}{3}$$

Step 1 - What is on the same side as X, but not attached to X?

Step 2 - Take the number determined in Step 1 and move that number to the other side.

- If the number is positive, you subtract it from both sides

- If the number is negative, you add it to both sides

Step 3 - The number you added or subtracted from both sides will cancel out on the side with the X.

On the other side you will have to add or subtract the numbers.

Step 4 - X needs to be alone. To do that you need to divide by the number next to X and by the number on the other side of the equal sign.

$$\frac{3x}{3} = \frac{24}{3}$$

$$x = 8$$

Step 5 - The numbers on the X side will cancel each other out. The number on the other side of the equal sign is your answer after you divide