

SOLUTIONS FOR SAMPLE TEST of MATH 80 CONCEPTS

1.

$$(a) \frac{2}{3} + \frac{3}{4} = \frac{4 \cdot 2}{4 \cdot 3} + \frac{3 \cdot 3}{4 \cdot 3} = \frac{8}{12} + \frac{9}{12} = \frac{8+9}{12} = \boxed{\frac{17}{12} \text{ or } 1\frac{5}{12}}$$

$$(b) \frac{2}{3} - \frac{3}{5} = \frac{5 \cdot 2}{5 \cdot 3} - \frac{3 \cdot 3}{5 \cdot 3} = \frac{10}{15} - \frac{9}{15} = \frac{10-9}{15} = \boxed{\frac{1}{15}}$$

$$(c) \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{3}{7} = \frac{2 \cdot 3}{3 \cdot 7} = \frac{2 \cdot \cancel{3}^1}{\cancel{3}_1 \cdot 7} = \frac{2 \cdot 1}{1 \cdot 7} = \boxed{\frac{2}{7}}$$

$$(d) 1\frac{2}{3} \div 2\frac{3}{4} = \frac{3 \cdot 1 + 2}{3} \div \frac{4 \cdot 2 + 3}{4} = \frac{3+2}{3} \div \frac{8+3}{4} = \frac{5}{3} \div \frac{11}{4} = \frac{5}{3} \cdot \frac{4}{11} = \frac{5 \cdot 4}{3 \cdot 11} = \boxed{\frac{20}{33}}$$

$$(e) \frac{26}{80} = \frac{2 \cdot 13}{2 \cdot 40} = \frac{\cancel{2}^1 \cdot 13}{\cancel{2}_1 \cdot 40} = \boxed{\frac{13}{40}}$$

$$(f) \frac{84}{91} = \frac{7 \cdot 12}{7 \cdot 13} = \frac{\cancel{7}^1 \cdot 12}{\cancel{7}_1 \cdot 13} = \boxed{\frac{12}{13}}$$

2.

$$(a) 3x - 7 = 12 \Rightarrow 3x = 19 \Rightarrow \boxed{x = \frac{19}{3} \text{ or } 6\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$(b) 6x + 3 = 2(3x - 7) \Rightarrow 6x + 3 = 6x - 14 \Rightarrow 3 = -14 \text{ (a contradiction)} \quad \boxed{\text{No Solutions}}$$

$$(c) 4(x + 1) = 2(2x + 2) \Rightarrow 4x + 4 = 4x + 4 \Rightarrow 4 = 4 \text{ (an identity)} \quad \boxed{x \text{ can be any Real number}}$$

$$(d) \frac{2}{7}(x + 9) = 19 \Rightarrow \frac{7}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{7}(x + 9) = 19 \cdot \frac{7}{2} \Rightarrow 1(x + 9) = \frac{19 \cdot 7}{1 \cdot 2} \Rightarrow x + 9 = \frac{19 \cdot 7}{1 \cdot 2} \Rightarrow x + 9 = \frac{133}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{133}{2} - 9 \Rightarrow x = \frac{133}{2} - \frac{9 \cdot 2}{1 \cdot 2} \Rightarrow x = \frac{133}{2} - \frac{18}{2} \Rightarrow x = \frac{133 - 18}{2} \Rightarrow \boxed{x = \frac{115}{2} \text{ or } 57\frac{1}{2}}$$

3.

$$(a) a^2 - 9b^2 = (a)^2 - (3b)^2 = \boxed{(a - 3b)(a + 3b)}$$

$$(b) x^2 - 12x + 35 = \boxed{(x - 7)(x - 5)}$$

$$(c) \quad 2x^2 - 4xy - 10hx + 20hy = 2(x^2 - 2xy - 5hx + 10hy) = 2(\underline{x(x-2y)} - 5h\underline{(x-2y)}) = 2((x-2y)(x-5h)) \\ = \boxed{2(x-2y)(x-5h)}$$

$$(d) \quad 10x^2 - 30y^2 = \boxed{10(x^2 - 3y^2)}$$

$$(e) \quad 2x^2 + 5x - 12 = \boxed{(2x-3)(x+4)}$$

4.

$$(a) \quad x^2 - 12x + 35 = 0 \Rightarrow (x-7)(x-5) = 0 \Rightarrow \text{Either } x-7=0 \Rightarrow \boxed{x=7} \\ \text{or } x-5=0 \Rightarrow \boxed{x=5}$$

$$(b) \quad x(x+2) = 5 \Rightarrow x^2 + 2x = 5 \Rightarrow x^2 + 2x - 5 = 0 \Rightarrow x = \frac{-(2) \pm \sqrt{(2)^2 - 4 \cdot (1) \cdot (-5)}}{2 \cdot (1)} \\ \Rightarrow x = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4+20}}{2} \Rightarrow x = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{24}}{2} \Rightarrow x = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4 \cdot 6}}{2} \Rightarrow x = \frac{-2 \pm 2\sqrt{6}}{2} \\ \Rightarrow x = \frac{-2 \pm 2\sqrt{6}}{2} \Rightarrow x = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{6}}{1} \Rightarrow \boxed{x = -1 \pm \sqrt{6}}$$

(c) With $x=5$, $x^2 - 12x + 35$ becomes $(5)^2 - 12 \cdot (5) + 35 = 25 - 60 + 35 = 0$ which does not equal 63. Therefore, $x=5$ is NOT a solution of $x^2 - 12x + 35 = 63$. F.Y.I. $x=5$ is a solution of $x^2 - 12x + 35 = 0$.

(d) With $x=-2$, $x^2 - 12x + 35$ becomes $(-2)^2 - 12 \cdot (-2) + 35 = 4 + 24 + 35 = 63$. Therefore, $x=-2$ is a solution of $x^2 - 12x + 35 = 63$.

5.

(a) Choosing to eliminate the variable x (as opposed to the variable y), we see that $\begin{cases} 2x + y = 3 \\ 4x - 7y = 2 \end{cases}$ is equivalent to

$$\begin{cases} (-2) \cdot (2x + y) = (3) \cdot (-2) \\ 4x - 7y = 2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} -4x - 2y = -6 \\ 4x - 7y = 2 \end{cases}. \text{ Adding column-by-column we get } -9y = -4 \text{ which implies}$$

that $y = \frac{-4}{-9} = \frac{4}{9}$. Although one could return to the original system of equations and eliminate y (by multiplying

both sides of the first equation by 7), I choose to substitute $y = \frac{4}{9}$ into one of the original equations. Specifically,

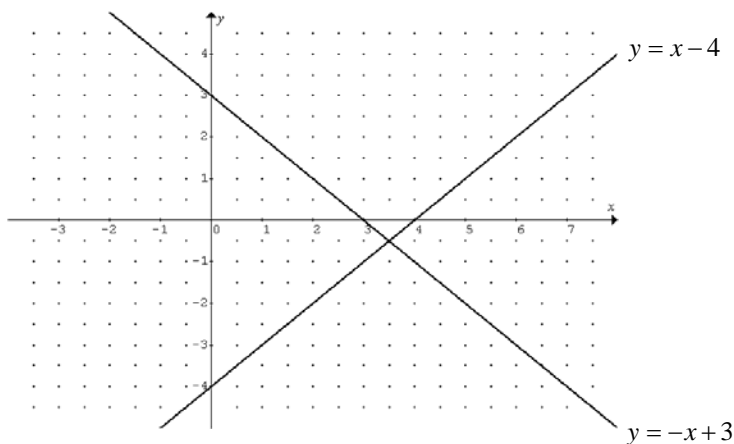
I choose to substitute $y = \frac{4}{9}$ into the first equation. With $y = \frac{4}{9}$, $2x + y = 3$ becomes $2x + \frac{4}{9} = 3$, which implies

$$\text{that } 2x = 3 - \frac{4}{9} \Rightarrow 2x = 3 \cdot \frac{9}{9} - \frac{4}{9} \Rightarrow 2x = \frac{27}{9} - \frac{4}{9} \Rightarrow 2x = \frac{27-4}{9} \Rightarrow 2x = \frac{23}{9} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2x = \frac{23}{9} \cdot \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{23 \cdot 1}{9 \cdot 2} \Rightarrow x = \frac{23}{18} \text{ or } 1\frac{5}{18}. \text{ Therefore, the system's solution is } \boxed{(x, y) = \left(\frac{23}{18}, \frac{4}{9}\right)}.$$

- (b) Choosing to solve the second equation for the variable y (as opposed to solving either of the two equations for either the variable x or the variable y), we see that $2x + y = 8 \Rightarrow y = 8 - 2x$. Substituting the expression $8 - 2x$ in place of y in the first equation, we see that $3x - y = 2$ becomes $3x - (8 - 2x) = 2$. Solving this one-variable equation: $3x - (8 - 2x) = 2 \Rightarrow 3x - 8 + 2x = 2 \Rightarrow 5x - 8 = 2 \Rightarrow 5x = 10 \Rightarrow x = 2$. Thus, with $x = 2$, we see that $y = 8 - 2x$ becomes $y = 8 - 2 \cdot 2 = 8 - 4 = 4$, and so the solution of the system $\begin{cases} 3x - y = 2 \\ 2x + y = 8 \end{cases}$ is $\boxed{(x, y) = (2, 4)}$.

- (c) Observe that $\begin{cases} x + y = 3 \\ y = x - 4 \end{cases}$ is equivalent to $\begin{cases} y = -x + 3 \\ y = x - 4 \end{cases}$ (a system in which each of the lines' equations are in *slope-intercept* form, thus making the process for graphing the two lines simple).



From the graph, we see that the two lines intersect at $(x, y) = \left(3\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\right) = \left(\frac{7}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\right)$. To see if

$(x, y) = \left(3\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\right) = \left(\frac{7}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\right)$ is the EXACT (correct) solution, one can substitute $x = 3\frac{1}{2} = \frac{7}{2}$ and $y = -\frac{1}{2}$ into

both of the equations in the original system. With $x = 3\frac{1}{2} = \frac{7}{2}$ and $y = -\frac{1}{2}$, we see that each of the equations in

$\begin{cases} x + y = 3 \\ y = x - 4 \end{cases}$ is an *identity* since $\begin{cases} 3\frac{1}{2} + \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = 3 \\ -\frac{1}{2} = 3\frac{1}{2} - 4 \end{cases}$. Therefore, the solution of the system $\begin{cases} x + y = 3 \\ y = x - 4 \end{cases}$ is

$$\boxed{(x, y) = \left(3\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\right) \text{ or } \left(\frac{7}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\right)}.$$

(d) Since a variable, namely y , is isolated in one of the two equations in the given system, I choose to employ the method of *Substitution*. Substituting the expression $-\frac{3}{4}x+3$ in place of y in the first equation, we see that

$$3x+4y=12 \text{ becomes } 3x+4\left(-\frac{3}{4}x+3\right)=12. \text{ Solving this one-variable equation: } 3x+4\left(-\frac{3}{4}x+3\right)=12$$

$\Rightarrow 3x-3x+12=12 \Rightarrow 12=12$ (an *identity*). Thus, these two lines are really the SAME, and so they have every point on the line in common. Note that one can double-check this by rewriting the first equation in *slope-intercept* form (by isolating y): $3x+4y=12 \Rightarrow 4y=-3x+12 \Rightarrow \frac{4y}{4}=\frac{-3x+12}{4} \Rightarrow y=-\frac{3}{4}x+3$.

Thus, the solutions of the system $\begin{cases} 3x+4y=12 \\ y=-\frac{3}{4}x+3 \end{cases}$ are every point (x, y) on the line $y=-\frac{3}{4}x+3$

(e) Choosing to employ the *Elimination* technique in order to solve the system $\begin{cases} 4x+3y=7 \\ 4x-8=-3y \end{cases}$, we see that

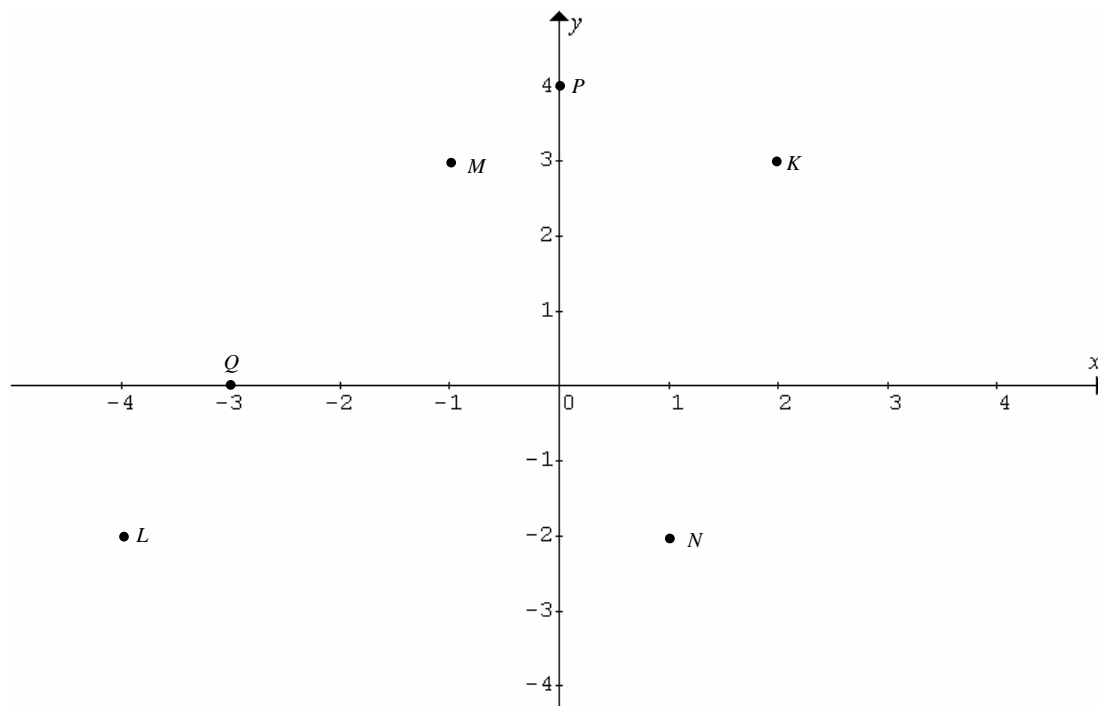
the given system is equivalent to $\begin{cases} 4x+3y=7 \\ 4x+3y=8 \end{cases}$. Multiplying both sides of the first equation by -1 , we get

$\begin{cases} -4x-3y=-7 \\ 4x+3y=8 \end{cases}$. Adding column-by-column, we get $0=1$ (a *contradiction*). Thus, the two lines have no points

in common (see for yourself by graphing them), and so we say that the system $\begin{cases} 4x+3y=7 \\ 4x-8=-3y \end{cases}$ has No Solutions.

6. Given: $K=(2,3)$, $L=(-4,-2)$, $M=(-1,3)$, $N=(1,-2)$, $P=(0,4)$, $Q=(-3,0)$

(a)

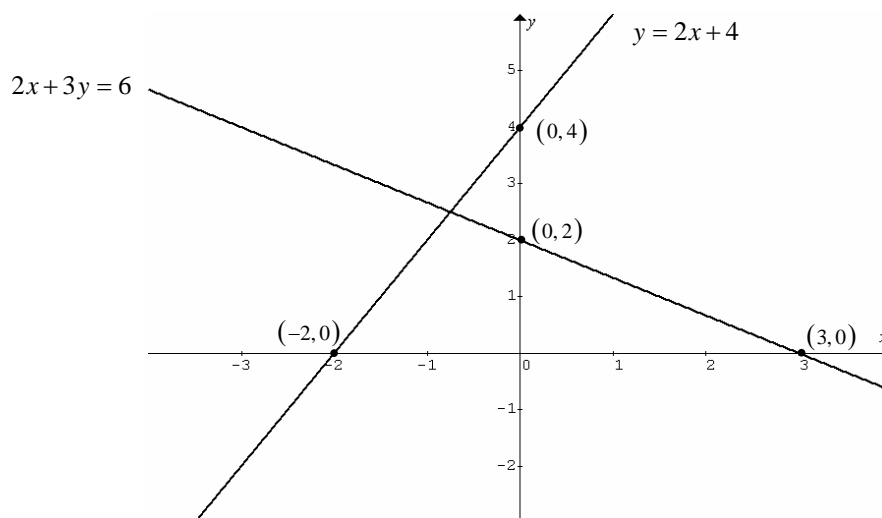


- (b) Since $y = 2x + 4$ is in *slope-intercept* form (i.e. it's in $y = mx + b$ form), then the line's y -intercept is at $b = 4$. Substituting $y = 0$ in order to determine the x -intercept, we have $0 = 2x + 4 \Rightarrow -4 = 2x \Rightarrow -2 = x$. Thus, the x and y intercepts of the line $y = 2x + 4$ are the points with coordinates $(-2, 0)$ and $(0, 4)$, respectively.

With $x = 0$, we see that $2x + 3y = 6$ becomes $2 \cdot 0 + 3y = 6 \Rightarrow 0 + 3y = 6 \Rightarrow 3y = 6 \Rightarrow y = 2$.

With $y = 0$, we see that $2x + 3y = 6$ becomes $2x + 3 \cdot 0 = 6 \Rightarrow 2x + 0 = 6 \Rightarrow 2x = 6 \Rightarrow x = 3$.

Thus, the x and y intercepts of the line $2x + 3y = 6$ are the points with coordinates $(3, 0)$ and $(0, 2)$, respectively.



- (c) Since $y = 2x + 4$ is in *slope-intercept* form (i.e. it's in $y = mx + b$ form), then this line's slope is $m = 2$.

Recall that the slope can be determined by using the formula $m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$ if the coordinates of two points on the line are known. Since we know that the points $(3, 0)$ and $(0, 2)$ are on the line $2x + 3y = 6$,

$$\text{then } m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} \Rightarrow m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \begin{cases} \frac{2-0}{0-3} = \frac{2}{-3} \\ \frac{0-2}{3-0} = \frac{-2}{3} \end{cases} = -\frac{2}{3}, \text{ and so the slope of this line is } m = -\frac{2}{3}.$$

- (d) The slope of the line between $K = (2, 3)$ and $L = (-4, -2)$ is $\Rightarrow m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \begin{cases} \frac{3 - (-2)}{2 - (-4)} = \frac{5}{6} \\ \frac{-2 - 3}{-4 - 2} = \frac{-5}{-6} \end{cases} = \frac{5}{6}.$

$$\text{The slope of the line between } M = (-1, 3) \text{ and } N = (1, -2) \text{ is } \Rightarrow m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \begin{cases} \frac{3 - (-2)}{-1 - 1} = \frac{5}{-2} \\ \frac{-2 - 3}{1 - (-1)} = \frac{-5}{2} \end{cases} = -\frac{5}{2}.$$

- (e) A line with slope $-\frac{4}{5}$ is a line that is “going down” from left-to-right at the rate of $\frac{4}{5}$. That is, for every 5 units one counts to the right, the line will drop 4 units.

7. RECALL: $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$ can be used to determine the equation of ANY line if the slope and the coordinates of *any* point on the line is known.

$y = mx + b$ can be used to determine the equation of a line if the slope and the y-intercept are known.

Recall that the slope can be determined by counting or by using the formula $m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$.

- (a) Since the y-intercept of the line connecting the points (2,3) and (4,7) is unknown, I choose to use

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1), \text{ where the slope of the line is given by } m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \begin{cases} \frac{7-3}{4-2} = \frac{4}{2} = 2. \\ \frac{3-7}{2-4} = \frac{-4}{-2} \end{cases}$$

Thus, with $m = 2$ we see that $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$ becomes $y - y_1 = 2 \cdot (x - x_1)$. We can use either point for (x_1, y_1) . That is, we can use (2,3) as the known point (x_1, y_1) or we can use (4,7) as the known point (x_1, y_1) . Completion of the line’s equation is done with both of these below for your edification.

Using (2,3) as the known point (x_1, y_1) , then

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1) \text{ becomes } y - 3 = 2 \cdot (x - 2)$$

$$\Rightarrow y - 3 = 2x - 4 \Rightarrow \boxed{y = 2x - 1}.$$

Using (4,7) as the known point (x_1, y_1) , then

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1) \text{ becomes } y - 7 = 2 \cdot (x - 4)$$

$$\Rightarrow y - 7 = 2x - 8 \Rightarrow \boxed{y = 2x - 1}.$$

Thus, using either (2,3) or (4,7) as (x_1, y_1) , the known point on the line, the slope-intercept form of the line’s equation is $y = 2x - 1$. One could choose to change this equation from *slope-intercept* form to *general* form by the following simplification steps: $y = 2x - 1 \Rightarrow 0 = 2x - y - 1 \Rightarrow 1 = 2x - y \Rightarrow 2x - y = 1$.

- (b) In order to find the equation of the line passing through the point (4,7) with slope -3 , I choose to use

$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$ (instead of starting with $y = mx + b$). Thus, with $x_1 = 4$, $y_1 = 7$, and $m = -3$, we see that

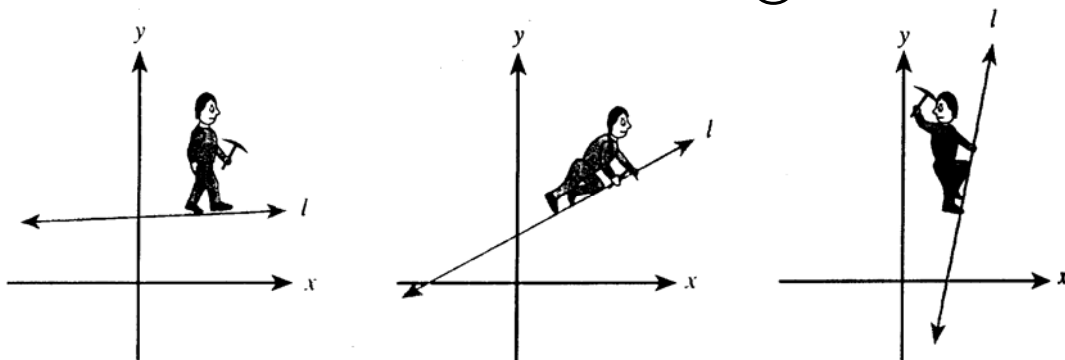
$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1) \text{ becomes } y - 7 = -3(x - 4) \Rightarrow y - 7 = -3x + 12 \Rightarrow \boxed{y = -3x + 19}.$$

One could choose to change this equation from *slope-intercept* form to *general* form by the following simplification steps: $y = -3x + 19 \Rightarrow 3x + y = 19$.

(c) In the equation written in the form $y = mx + b$, y is the variable whose values are on the vertical axis, x is the variable whose infinitely many values are on the horizontal axis, m represents the line's slope, and b represents the line's y -intercept.

(d) Since $y = 2x + 4$ is in *slope-intercept* form (i.e. it's in $y = mx + b$ form), then this line's slope is $m = 2 = \frac{2}{1}$ and this line's y -intercept is $b = 4$. Thus, a quick method for graphing the line $y = 2x + 4$ is to plot the point with coordinates $(0, 4)$; then move up 2 units and over to the right 1 unit and plot the point with coordinates $(0+1, 4+2) = (1, 6)$. Finally, draw a line that passes through both of the points $(0, 4)$ and $(1, 6)$.

Some Math Humor



8. Don't forget to define your variable(s) very carefully. Each variable should always represent a quantity. Include the appropriate units of measurement

(a) Let x represent the amount of 20% solution (this amount is to be measured in liters).

Let y represent the amount of 50% solution (this amount is to be measured in liters).

$$\text{Then } \begin{cases} x + y = 10 & \text{[considering the total number of liters]} \\ 0.20x + 0.50y = 0.30 \cdot (10) & \text{[considering the amount of solvent]} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} x + y = 10 \\ 0.20x + 0.50y = 0.30 \cdot (10) \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x + y = 10 \\ 0.2x + 0.5y = 3 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} (-0.2)(x + y) = (10)(-0.2) \\ 0.2x + 0.5y = 3 \end{cases} \quad \text{(choosing to eliminate } x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} -0.2x - 0.2y = -2 \\ 0.2x + 0.5y = 3 \end{cases} \cdot \text{Adding column-by-column, we get } 0.3y = 1 \Rightarrow y = \frac{1}{0.3} = \frac{1}{\frac{3}{10}} = 1 \cdot \frac{10}{3} = \frac{10}{3} = 3\frac{1}{3}.$$

Substituting $y = \frac{10}{3} = 3\frac{1}{3}$ into the first equation, we see that $x + y = 10$ becomes $x + 3\frac{1}{3} = 10 \Rightarrow x = 10 - 3\frac{1}{3}$

$$\Rightarrow x = 6\frac{2}{3}.$$

$6\frac{2}{3}$ liters of the 20% solution must be mixed with $3\frac{1}{3}$ liters of the 50% solution in order to make 10 liters of a 30% solution.

(b) Let d represent the number of dimes.

Let n represent the number of nickels.

$$\text{Then } \begin{cases} d + n = 30 & \text{[considering the total number of coins]} \\ 0.10d + 0.05n = 2.50 & \text{[considering the value of the coins in dollars]} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} d + n = 30 \\ 0.1d + 0.05n = 2.5 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} d + n = 30 \\ (-10)(0.1d + 0.05n) = (2.5)(-10) \end{cases} \quad \text{(choosing to eliminate } d)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} d + n = 30 \\ -d - 0.5n = -25 \end{cases}. \text{ Adding column-by-column, we get } 0.5n = 5 \text{ which is equivalent to } \frac{1}{2}n = 5, \text{ and so}$$

$n = 2 \cdot 5 = 10$. Substituting $n = 10$ into the first equation, we see that $d + n = 30$ becomes $d + 10 = 30$

$$\Rightarrow d = 20.$$

Ian has 10 nickels and 20 dimes in his \$2.50 collection.

(c) Let B represent the Bill's speed or rate (in kilometers per hour).

Let J represent the Jill's speed or rate (in kilometers per hour).

$$\text{Then } \begin{cases} J = 10 + B & \text{[since Jill rides 10 kph faster than Bill]} \\ \frac{10}{B} = \frac{15}{J} & \text{[equating times where } T = \frac{D}{R} \text{ since } D = RT] \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} J = 10 + B \\ \frac{10}{B} = \frac{15}{J} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} J = 10 + B \\ 10J = 15B \end{cases}. \text{ Substituting the expression } 10 + B \text{ for } J \text{ in the second equation, we get}$$

$$10(10 + B) = 15B \Rightarrow 100 + 10B = 15B \Rightarrow 100 = 5B \Rightarrow 20 = B. \quad \text{Bill travels at 20 kph.}$$

F.Y.I. With $B = 20$, we see that $J = 10 + B$ becomes $J = 10 + 20 = 30$ and so Jill travels at 30 kph.

(d) Let x represent the amount of money Mr. Hiyamoto invests at 6% solution (this amount is measured in dollars).

Then $8000 - x$ represents the amount of money Mr. Hiyamoto invests at 7% solution (measured in dollars).

$$\text{Then, } 0.06x + 0.07(8000 - x) = 510 \Rightarrow 0.06x + 560 - 0.07x = 510 \Rightarrow -0.01x + 560 = 510$$

$$\Rightarrow -0.01x = -50 \Rightarrow (-100)(-0.01x) = (-50)(-100) \Rightarrow x = 5000, \text{ and so } 8000 - x = 8000 - 5000 = 3000.$$

Mr. Hiyamoto invests \$5,000 at 6% and \$3,000 at 7%.

(e) Let C represent the cost of the cork (in dollars).

Let B represent the cost of the bottle (in dollars).

$$\text{Then } \begin{cases} C + B = 1.10 \\ C = B - 1 \end{cases}. \text{ By substitution, we see that } (B - 1) + B = 1.10 \Rightarrow 2B - 1 = 1.10 \Rightarrow 2B = 2.10$$

$$\Rightarrow B = \frac{2.10}{2} = 1.05, \text{ and so } C = B - 1 \text{ becomes } C = 1.05 - 1 = 0.05.$$

The cork costs \$0.05 or 5¢ and the bottle costs \$1.05.

So, if you were to buy 15 corks, each at \$0.05 (or 5¢) and 13 bottles, each at \$1.05, your total cost would be $15(0.05) + 13(1.05) = 0.75 + 13.65 = 14.40$.

The 15 corks and 13 bottles would cost \$14.40.

(f) Let x represent the smaller number. Let y represent the larger number.

Then, $\begin{cases} x + y = 14 \\ 2x = y - 2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x + y = 14 \\ 2x + 2 = y \end{cases}$. Choosing to substitute the expression $2x + 2$ in for y in the first equation,

we get $x + (2x + 2) = 14 \Rightarrow 3x + 2 = 14 \Rightarrow 3x = 12 \Rightarrow x = 4$, and so $y = 2x + 2$ becomes $y = 2(4) + 2 \Rightarrow y = 8 + 2 = 10$.

The smaller number is 4 and the larger number is 10.

9.

(a) $(2x^2 + 3x) + (5x^3 + 7x^2 - 31x + 4) = 2x^2 + 3x + 5x^3 + 7x^2 - 31x + 4 = \boxed{5x^3 + 9x^2 - 28x + 4}$.

(b) $(0.3x^2 - 7x + 4) - (2x^2 - 0.81x + 9) = 0.3x^2 - 7x + 4 - 2x^2 + 0.81x - 9 = \boxed{-1.7x^2 - 6.19x - 5}$

(c) $\left(\frac{3}{4}y - 7\right)\left(4y^2 + \frac{5}{7}y\right) = \left(\frac{3}{4}y\right)\cdot(4y^2) + \left(\frac{3}{4}y\right)\cdot\left(\frac{5}{7}y\right) - (7)\cdot(4y^2) - (7)\cdot\left(\frac{5}{7}y\right)$
 $= 3y^3 + \frac{15}{28}y^2 - 28y^2 - 5y = 3y^3 + \frac{15}{28}y^2 - \frac{28}{1}\cdot\frac{28}{28}y^2 - 5y = 3y^3 + \frac{15}{28}y^2 - \frac{784}{28}y^2 - 5y$
 $= \boxed{3y^3 - \frac{769}{28}y^2 - 5y}$.

10.

(a) $\sqrt{25} = \boxed{5}$ (b) $\sqrt{36} = \boxed{6}$ (c) $\sqrt{125} = \sqrt{25 \cdot 5} = \boxed{5\sqrt{5}}$

(d) $d = \sqrt{3^2 + 5^2} = \sqrt{9 + 25} = \sqrt{34} \Rightarrow \boxed{d = \sqrt{34}}$

(e) $e^2 + 2^2 = 5^2 \Rightarrow e^2 + 4 = 25 \Rightarrow e^2 = 21 \Rightarrow \sqrt{e^2} = \pm\sqrt{21} \Rightarrow e = \pm\sqrt{21}$. However, since e represents a length, it cannot have a negative value, and so $\boxed{e = \sqrt{21}}$.

(f) Let x represent the length of the shorter leg (to be measured in inches).

Then, $x^2 + (x + 7)^2 = 17^2 \Rightarrow x^2 + (x + 7)(x + 7) = 289 \Rightarrow x^2 + x^2 + 14x + 49 = 289 \Rightarrow 2x^2 + 14x + 49 = 289$
 $\Rightarrow 2x^2 + 14x - 240 = 0$. Choosing to divide both sides of this equation by 2, we obtain the easier-to-work-with equivalent equation $x^2 + 7x - 120 = 0$. Since the expression on the left-hand-side of the equation is factorable, I choose not to use the Quadratic Formula to solve $x^2 + 7x - 120 = 0$ and instead conclude that $x^2 + 7x - 120 = 0$
 $(x + 15)(x - 8) = 0 \Rightarrow$ Either $x + 15 = 0 \Rightarrow x = -15$ (we discard this solution as a possible value for length x)
or $x - 8 = 0 \Rightarrow x = 8$. Thus, one leg of this triangle is 8 inches long and the other is 15 inches long (since it was 7 inches longer than x).

The lengths of the triangle's legs are 8 inches and 15 inches.