

Algebra 1 – Unit 7
Solving Linear Systems by Substitution

Name: _____

Remember...

A solution of a system of linear equations is an ordered pair that makes *both* equations true.

Steps for using the Substitution Method

Step 1 - Solve one of the equations for a variable. Chose the variable that has a coefficient of 1.

Step 2 - **Substitute** the expression from Step 1 into the **other** equation and solve for the **other** variable.

Step 3 - **Substitute** the value from Step 2 into the revised equation from Step 1 and solve for the **other** variable.

Step 4 - Write your solution as an ordered pair.

EXAMPLE 1

$$\begin{aligned} x + 6y &= 16 \\ x &= 2y \end{aligned}$$

Step 1: Notice that the **second** equation has already been solved for x . We can substitute $2y$ for x in the first equation.

$$x + 6y = 16$$

Step 2: **Substitute** " $2y$ " for " x ". Solve for y .

$$2y + 6y = 16$$

$$\frac{8y}{8} = \frac{16}{8}$$

$$y = 2$$

$$x = 2y$$

Step 3: Substitute the **value of y** into the equation from step 1 in order to solve for x .

$$x = 2(2)$$

$$x = 4$$

$$\text{Answer: } (4, 2)$$

Step 4: Write your answer as an **ordered pair**.

EXAMPLE 2

$$\begin{aligned} x + 2y &= 19 \\ y &= x + 2 \end{aligned}$$

$x + 2y = 19$

Step 1: Notice that the **second** equation has already been solve for y.
We can substitute $x + 2$ for y in the first equation.

Step 2: Substitute " $x + 2$ " for y. Solve for x.

$$\begin{aligned} x + 2(x + 2) &= 19 \\ x + 2x + 4 &= 19 \end{aligned}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 3x + 4 = 19 \\ -4 \quad -4 \\ \hline 3x = 15 \\ \frac{3}{3} \quad \frac{15}{3} \\ \hline x = 5 \end{array}$$

$$y = x + 2$$

Step 3: Substitute the **value of x** into one of the original equations.

$$\begin{aligned} y &= 5 + 2 \\ y &= 7 \end{aligned}$$

Answer: $(5, 7)$

Step 4: Write your answer as an **ordered pair**.

EXAMPLE 3

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + y &= 21 \\ x &= 3y \end{aligned}$$

$2x + y = 21$

Step 1: Notice that the **second** equation has already been solved for x.
Substitute $3y$ for x in the first equation.

Step 2: Substitute " $3y$ " for x. Solve for y.

$$\begin{aligned} 2(3y) + y &= 21 \\ 6y + y &= 21 \\ 7y &= 21 \\ y &= \frac{21}{7} \end{aligned}$$
$$y = 3$$

$$x = 3y$$

Step 3: Substitute the **value of y** into one of the original equations and solve for x.

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 3(3) \\ x &= 9 \end{aligned}$$

Answer: $(9, 3)$

Step 4: Write your answer as an **ordered pair**.

EXAMPLE 4

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + 3y &= 14 \\ y &= x + 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + 3y &= 14 \\ 2x + 3(x+3) &= 14 \\ 2x + 3x + 9 &= 14 \\ 5x + 9 &= 14 \\ \underline{-9 \quad -9} & \end{aligned}$$

Step 1: Notice that the **second** equation has already been solved for y. Substitute $x+3$ for y in the first equation.

Step 2: Substitute "x + 3" for y. Solve for x.

$$\begin{aligned} 5x &= 5 \\ \underline{5 \quad 5} & \\ X &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} y &= x + 3 \\ y &= 1 + 3 \\ y &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Substitute the **value of x** into one of the original equations and solve for y.

Answer: $(1, 4)$

Step 4: Write your answer as an **ordered pair**.

EXAMPLE 5

$$\begin{aligned} 4x + 6y &= 4 \\ x &= 2y - 6 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 4x + 6y &= 4 \\ 4(2y-6) + 6y &= 4 \\ 8y - 24 + 6y &= 4 \\ 14y - 24 &= 4 \\ \underline{+24 \quad +24} & \end{aligned}$$

Step 1: Notice that the **second** equation has already been solved for x. Substitute $2y-6$ for x in the first equation.

Step 2: Substitute "2y - 6" for x. Solve for y.

$$\begin{aligned} 14y &= 28 \\ \underline{14 \quad 14} & \\ y &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 2y - 6 \\ x &= 2(2) - 6 \\ x &= 4 - 6 \\ x &= -2 \end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Substitute the **value of y** into one of the original equations and solve for x.

Answer: $(-2, 2)$

Step 4: Write your answer as an **ordered pair**.