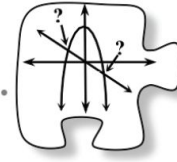


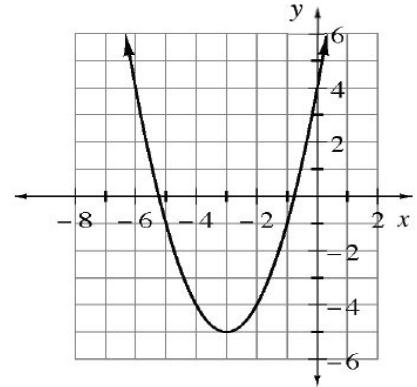
### 3.1.1 How can I solve the equation?

Strategies for Solving Equations



#### #1 SOLVING GRAPHICALLY

One of the big ideas of Chapter 2 was how to determine special points on the graph of a function. For example, you used the equation of a parabola written in graphing form to locate its vertex without graphing. But what about the locations of other points on the parabola? Consider the graph of  $y = (x + 3)^2 - 5$  at right.



a. How many solutions does the equation  $y = (x + 3)^2 - 5$  have? How is this shown on the graph?

b. How many solutions does the equation  $(x + 3)^2 - 5 = 4$  have? How is this shown on the graph?

c. Use the graph to solve the equation  $(x + 3)^2 - 5 = 4$ . How did the graph help you solve the equation?

#### #2 ALGEBRAIC STRATEGIES

Solve the equation  $(x + 3)^2 - 5 = 11$  in two different strategies.

**Method 1**

**Method 2**

**#3** Three strategies your class or team may have used in problem 3-2 are:

- **Rewriting:** Using algebra to write a new equivalent equation that is easier to solve.
- **Looking Inside:** Reasoning about the value of the expression inside the function or parentheses.
- **Undoing:** Reversing or doing the opposite of an operation; for example, taking a square root to eliminate squaring.

Given:  $\frac{x-5}{4} + \frac{2}{5} = \frac{9}{10}$

a. Ernie decides to multiply both sides of the equation by 20 so that his equation becomes  $5(x - 5) + 8 = 18$ . Which strategy does Ernie use? How can you tell?

b. Elle takes Ernie's equation and decides to subtract 8 from both sides to get  $5(x - 5) = 10$ . Which strategy does Elle use?

c. Eric looks at Elle's equation and says, "*I can tell that  $(x - 5)$  must equal 2 because  $5 \cdot 2 = 10$ . Therefore, if  $x - 5 = 2$ , then  $x$  must be 7.*" What strategy does Eric use?

**#4** Given:  $x^2 + 2.5x - 1.5 = 0$

a. Rewrite the equation so that it has no decimals.

b. Rewrite your equation again, so that you can solve it without using the Quadratic Formula. Then solve your equation.

**#5** Solve each equation, if possible, using any strategy. Name your strategy and check with your teammates to see what strategies they choose. Be sure to check your solutions algebraically.

a.  $4|8x - 2| = 8$

**Strategies used:**

b.  $3\sqrt{4x - 8} + 9 = 15$

**Strategies used:**

c.  $(2y - 3)(y - 2) = -12y + 18$

**Strategies used:**

d.  $\frac{5}{x} + \frac{1}{3x} = \frac{4x}{3}$

**Strategies used:**

**#6** Graciela and Walter are working on solving each of the equations at below.

i.  $x^2 + 7x + 12 = 0$

ii.  $(\frac{1}{2}x + 7)^2 + 7(\frac{1}{2}x + 7) + 12 = 0$

a.

b.

$\square^2 + 7\square + 12 = 0$

c.

$\square = -3$        $\square = -4$

d.

**#7** Consider each of the following equations. What structure can you see that might help you rewrite the equation?

a.  $(m^2 + 5m - 24)^2 - (m^2 + 5m - 24) = 6$

**u=**

**Rewritten Equation:**

b.  $x^{2/3} - x^{1/3} - 56 = 0$

**u=**

**Rewritten Equation:**

c.  $y^6 + 3y^3 - 18 = 0$

**u=**

**Rewritten Equation:**

d.  $p - 12\sqrt{p} = -35$

**u=**

**Rewritten Equation:**

e.  $3\sqrt{x+\frac{1}{4}} = 9\left(\sqrt{x+\frac{1}{4}}\right)^2$

**u=**

**Rewritten Equation:**

**#8** Solve two of the equations from problem #7 using the “u” substitution.

Equation 1:

Equation 2: