

Rearranging formulae when the required subject appears more than once

Starter

1. (Review of last lesson)

Make w the subject of: (a) $c = \sqrt{n - w}$ (b) $xy = 7 - 4z^5$

Working: (a) *Square both sides:*
Add w to make w positive:
Subtract c^2 from both sides:

$$c = \sqrt{n - w}$$

$$c^2 = n - w$$

$$c^2 + w = n$$

$$w = n - c^2$$

(b) *Add $4z^5$ to make z positive:*
Subtract xy from both sides:
Divide both sides by 4:
5th root both sides:

$$xy = 7 - 4z^5$$

$$xy + 4z^5 = 7$$

$$4z^5 = 7 - xy$$

$$z^5 = \frac{7 - xy}{4}$$

$$z = \sqrt[5]{\frac{7 - xy}{4}}$$

2. (Review of previous material) Factorise $xy + x$.

Working: $xy + x = x(y + 1)$ *note the 1 in the bracket*

3. (a) Make x the subject of $5x = 2x + 4y$
 (b) Using a similar first step to (a), make x the subject of $5x = ax + 4y$.

Working: (a) *Subtract $2x$ from both sides:*
Divide both sides by 3:

$$5x = 2x + 4y$$

$$3x = 4y$$

$$x = \frac{4y}{3}$$

(b) *Subtract ax from both sides:*
Factorise the LHS:
Divide both sides by $5 - a$:

$$5x = ax + 4y$$

$$5x - ax = 4y$$

$$x(5 - a) = 4y$$

$$x = \frac{4y}{5 - a}$$

E.g. 1 Make y the subject: (a) $ay + d = 3d + py$ (b) $my - c = e - ny$

Working: (a) *Subtract py from both sides:*
Subtract d from both sides:
Factorise the LHS:
Divide both sides by $a - p$:

$$ay + d = 3d + py$$

$$ay - py + d = 3d$$

$$ay - py = 2d$$

$$y(a - p) = 2d$$

$$y = \frac{2d}{a - p}$$

(b) *Add ny to both sides:*
Add c to both sides:
Factorise the LHS:

$$my - c = e - ny$$

$$my + ny - c = e$$

$$my + ny = e + c$$

$$y(m + n) = e + c$$

Divide both sides by $m + n$:

$$y = \frac{e + c}{m + n}$$

E.g. 2 Make x the subject: (a) $a(x + 2) = 3(4 - 5x)$

(b) $5(x - p) = q(7 + x)$

Working: (a)

Expand the brackets:
Add $15x$ to both sides:
Subtract $2a$ from both sides:
Factorise the LHS:

$$\begin{aligned} a(x + 2) &= 3(4 - 5x) \\ ax + 2a &= 12 - 15x \\ ax + 15x + 2a &= 12 \\ ax + 15x &= 12 - 2a \\ x(a + 15) &= 12 - 2a \\ x &= \frac{12 - 2a}{a + 15} \end{aligned}$$

(b)

Expand the brackets:
Subtract qx from both sides:
Add $5p$ to both sides:
Factorise the LHS:

$$\begin{aligned} 5(x - p) &= q(7 + x) \\ 5x - 5p &= 7q + qx \\ 5x - qx - 5p &= 7q \\ 5x - qx &= 7q + 5p \\ x(5 - q) &= 7q + 5p \\ x &= \frac{7q + 5p}{5 - q} \end{aligned}$$

E.g. 3 Make y the subject: (a) $\frac{a - y}{b + y} = d$

(b) $\frac{2y + p}{q - y} = \frac{t}{3}$

Working: (a)

Multiply both sides by $b + y$:
Expand the brackets:
Add y to both sides:
Subtract bd from both sides:
Factorise the LHS:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a - y}{b + y} &= d \\ a - y &= d(b + y) \\ a - y &= bd + dy \\ a &= bd + dy + y \\ a - bd &= dy + y \\ a - bd &= y(d + 1) \\ \frac{a - bd}{d + 1} &= y \\ y &= \frac{a - bd}{d + 1} \end{aligned}$$

Divide both sides by $d + 1$:

New subject on the LHS:

(b)

Cross multiply:
Expand the brackets:
Add ty to both sides:
Subtract $3p$ from both sides:
Factorise the LHS:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2y + p}{q - y} &= \frac{t}{3} \\ 3(2y + p) &= t(q - y) \\ 6y + 3p &= qt - ty \\ 6y + 3p + ty &= qt \\ 6y + ty &= qt - 3p \\ y(6 + t) &= qt - 3p \\ x &= \frac{qt - 3p}{6 + t} \end{aligned}$$

Divide both sides by $6 + t$:

Video: [Solving equations with letters on both sides](#)

Exercise

9-1 class textbook:	p169 M6.7 Qu 1-3, 4ace..., 5, 6, 7ace..., 8, 9
A*-G class textbook:	p162 E6.1 Qu 1-3, 4ace..., 5, 6, 7ace..., 8, 9
9-1 homework book:	p60 M6.7 Qu 1-10
A*-G homework book:	p46 E6.1 Qu 1-10

