Multi-Step Equations

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Name _____ Date _____

THE MISTAKE In $3x - 4 = 11$, a common mistake is to drop -4 from the left and subtract 4 on the right. That gives the incorrect equation $3x = 7$.

THE FIX Undo -4 by adding 4 to both sides: $3x = 15$. Then divide both sides by 3: $x = 5$. Check: $3(5) - 4 = 11$.

1. $3x - 4 = 11$
2. $2x + 5 = 17$
3. $4x - 7 = 9$
4. $5x + 3 = -12$
5. $2(x + 3) = 14$
6. $3(x - 2) = 12$
7. $7x - 4 = 3x + 8$
8. $x/3 + 2 = 6$
9. $6 - 2x = 10$
10. $4(x + 1) - 2 = 18$
11. $5x - 2x + 4 = 19$
12. $9 = 2x - 5$

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Answer key

1. $3x - 4 = 11$ → **$x = 5$**
2. $2x + 5 = 17$ → **$x = 6$**
3. $4x - 7 = 9$ → **$x = 4$**
4. $5x + 3 = -12$ → **$x = -3$**
5. $2(x + 3) = 14$ → **$x = 4$**
6. $3(x - 2) = 12$ → **$x = 6$**
7. $7x - 4 = 3x + 8$ → **$x = 3$**
8. $x/3 + 2 = 6$ → **$x = 12$**
9. $6 - 2x = 10$ → **$x = -2$**
10. $4(x + 1) - 2 = 18$ → **$x = 4$**
11. $5x - 2x + 4 = 19$ → **$x = 5$**
12. $9 = 2x - 5$ → **$x = 7$**

Got one wrong? Find the step where it went off track, then redo it. Every mistake you fix is a rep.

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