

CHOONG HAN JUN (COPYRIGHTED) ©

TOPIC 7: EQUATIONS & INEQUALITIES

EQUATIONS

We can solve equations by using the following operations:

- Adding the same number to both sides
- Subtracting the same number from both sides
- Multiplying both sides by the same number
- Dividing both sides by the same number

General rule

Move all constants to the RIGHT side of the equation, and all unknowns to the LEFT side of the equation

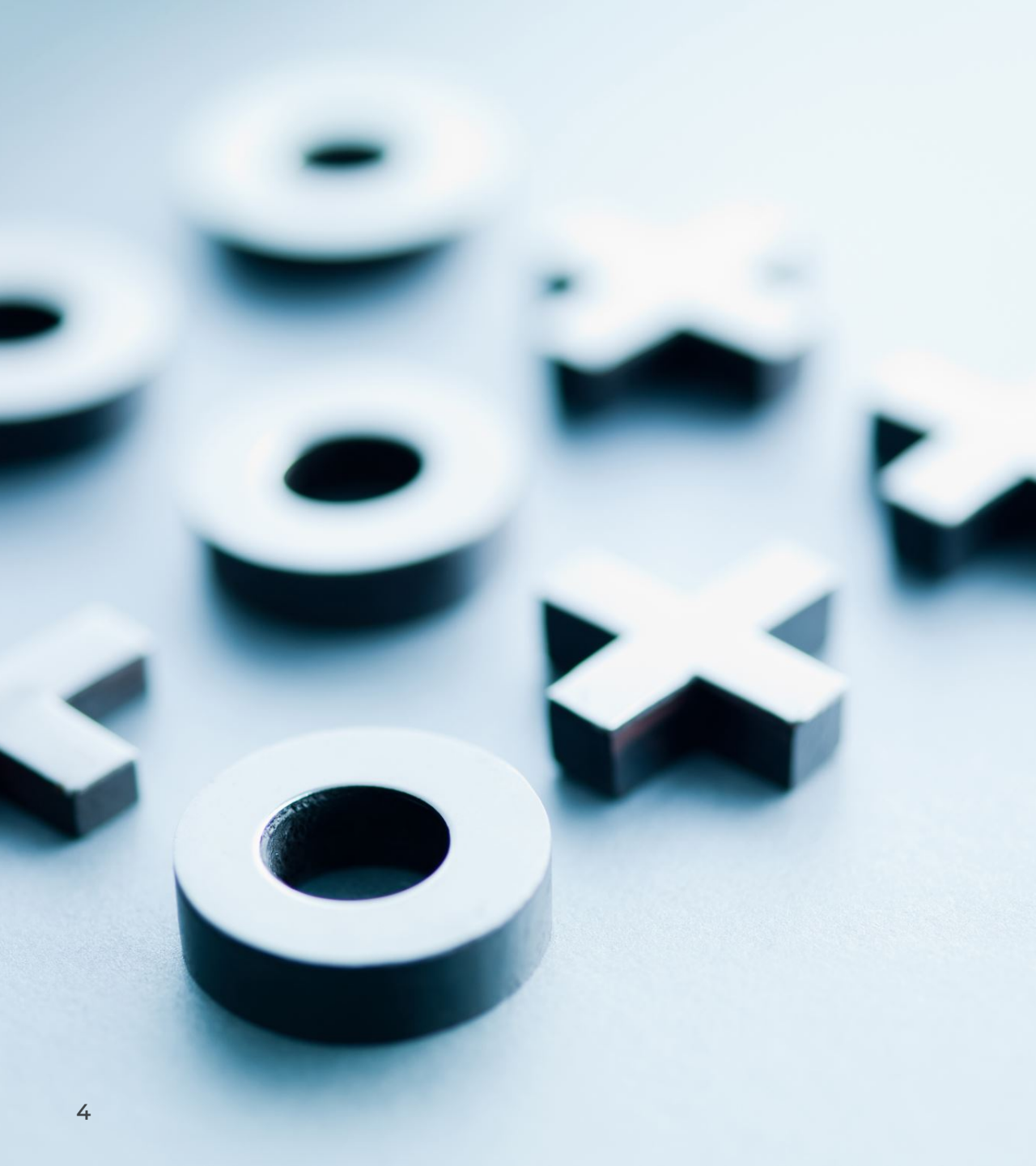
Example: Solve $0.5x - 1 = 9 - 1.5x$

- Step 1: Move all unknowns to the left side
 - $0.5x + 1.5x - 1 = 9$
 - $2x - 1 = 9$
- Step 2: Add 1 to both sides
 - $2x - 1 (+1) = 9 (+1)$
 - $2x = 10$
- Step 3: Divide both sides by 2
 - $\frac{2}{2}x = \frac{10}{2}$
 - $x = 5$ (answer)

Problems relating to simple equations

Eg. The length of a rectangle is 10m more than its breadth. Its perimeter is 80m. Find its length and breadth.

- Step 1: Represent any unknown value(s) with letters
 - *"Let the length of the rectangle be x , and the breadth of the rectangle be $(x-10)$ "*
- Step 2: Create an equation with the information provided
 - x (length) + x (length) + $(x-10)$ (breadth) + $(x-10)$ (breadth) = 80 (perimeter)
 - $2x + 2(x-10) = 80$
- Step 3: Solve the equation
 - $2x + 2x - 20 = 80$ (expansion of bracket)
 - $4x - 20 = 80$ (combining the x terms)
 - $4x = 100$ (shifting constants to right side of equation)
 - $x = 25$ (dividing both sides by 4) (answer)



Simple fractional equations

Eg. Solve $\frac{x}{3} + \frac{x-2}{4} = 3$

- Step 1: Combine the 2 separate fractions into 1 single fraction

- Find a common denominator: $\frac{x}{3} = \frac{4x}{12}$, $\frac{x-2}{4} = \frac{3(x-2)}{12}$

- $\frac{4x}{12} + \frac{3(x-2)}{12} = \frac{7x-6}{12}$

- Step 2: Cross-multiply the equation

- $\frac{7x-6}{12} = \frac{3}{1}$

- $7x - 6 = 3(12)$

- Step 3: Solve the equation

- $7x - 6 = 36$

- $7x = 42$

- $x = 6$ (answer)

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