



Algebra1Coach.com

Solving Proportions

Unit 2 Lesson 7

SOLVING PROPORTIONS

Students will be able to:

Solve proportions using the Cross Product Property and Multiplication Property of Equality

Key Vocabulary:

- Proportion
- Multiplication Property of Equality
- Cross Product Property

SOLVING PROPORTIONS

What is a Proportion?

A proportion is an equation having two ratios equal.

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d}$$

b & c



means

a & d



extremes

SOLVING PROPORTIONS

Methods of Solving Proportions

In solving proportions, we simplify both sides of the equality by using different properties to single out the variable whose value is to be found. There are two ways of solving a proportion.

1. Using Multiplication property of Equality

In this method, we multiply both sides of the proportion by a suitable number to single out the variable on one side and simplify the other side to find the value of the variable.

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{x}{d} \quad \Rightarrow \quad d \times \frac{a}{b} = \frac{x}{d} \times d$$

Multiplication Property of Equality

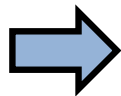
$$\Rightarrow \quad x = \frac{ad}{b}$$

SOLVING PROPORTIONS

Problem 1: Solving the proportion given below using the Multiplication property of Equality.

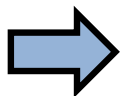
$$\frac{x}{15} = \frac{4}{5}$$

$$\frac{x}{15} = \frac{4}{5}$$

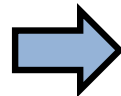


$$15 \times \frac{x}{15} = \frac{4}{5} \times 15$$

Multiplication Property of Equality



$$x = 4 \times 3$$

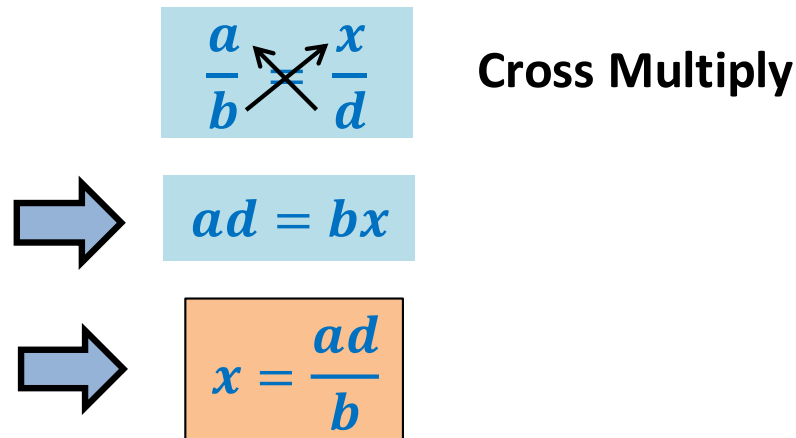


$$x = 12$$

SOLVING PROPORTIONS

2. Cross-Product Property in Proportions

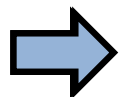
In a proportion, the product of extremes is equal to the product of means i.e. we cross multiply the terms on both sides of equality and simplify to solve for the given variable.


$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{x}{d} \quad \text{Cross Multiply}$$
$$\Rightarrow ad = bx$$
$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{ad}{b}$$

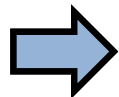
SOLVING PROPORTIONS

Problem 2: Solve the proportion $\frac{4}{3} = \frac{y+2}{6}$.

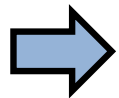
Apply the cross product property of proportions:



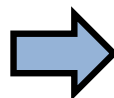
$$6 \times 4 = 3 \times (y + 2)$$



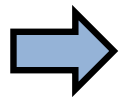
$$24 = 3y + 6$$



$$24 - 6 = 3y$$



$$3y = 18$$



$$y = 6$$

