Vocabulary: Equivalent Algebraic Expressions 1

Vocabulary

- Algebraic expression – an expression that contains numbers, variables, and operators.

- Associative – when values connected by two identical operators give the same result, regardless of how they are grouped.
    - Addition is associative because (a + b) + c and a + (b + c) are equivalent expressions.

- Commutative – when values connected by an operator give the same result, regardless of the order of the values.
    - Multiplication is commutative because a • b and b • a are equivalent expressions.

- Equivalent expressions – expressions that are always equal, regardless of the values assigned to any variables.

- Opposite – a number times -1. Also called the "additive inverse."
    - The opposite of 7 is -7.
    - The opposite of -2.5 is 2.5.

- Reciprocal – 1 divided by a number. Also called the "multiplicative inverse."
    - The reciprocal of 5 is $\frac{1}{5}$.
    - The reciprocal of $\frac{2}{3}$ is $\frac{3}{2}$.