Vocabulary: Solving Formulas for any Variable



**Vocabulary**

* Formula – a rule or relationship between variables, usually expressed as an equation.
	+ For example, the area of a rectangle is the product of its length and width (often abbreviated, *A* = *lw*).
* Solve – to find the answer to a problem.
	+ For example, to solve the equation 3*x* + 4 = 7, isolate *x* to find the value of *x* that makes the equation true.

 3*x* + 4 = 7

 3*x* + 4 – 4 = 7 – 4 Isolate 3*x* by subtracting 4 from each side.

 3*x* = 3 Simplify.

  =  Isolate *x* by dividing each side by 3.

 *x* = 1 Simplify. The solution is 1.

* + For example, to solve the formula *A* = *lw* for *l*, isolate *l*.

 *A* = *lw*

  = *l* Isolate *l* by dividing each side by *w*.