Vocabulary: Solving Formulas for any Variable

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**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*.