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COURSE: MSC V

MODULE 1: Essentials of Algebra

UNIT 3: Simple Equations

## Simplifying Algebraic Expressions





Key Words:

Simplify
Order of operations
Like terms
Equation
Constant

## Learning Objectives:

- Simplifying one side of an equation using the distributive property of multiplication over addition and following the order of operations
- Combining like terms
- Investigating the elements of an algebraic expression

1. a. Dijit writes 2.5 as the fraction \_\_\_\_\_\_.
b. When this fraction is substituted for 2.5 into the equation 34 + 2(2.5t - 1) + 2[½(2.5t - 1) - 2] = 102, the result is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. To what does the left side of the equation in Question 1b refer? \_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. a. Simplify the expression 2(½t - 1). \_\_\_\_\_\_.
b. What does this expression represent? \_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. a. Simplify the expression represent? \_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. a. Using the simplified expressions you just produced, rewrite the expressions.

As you work through the tutorial, complete the following statements and questions.

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sion for the weight of all the machinery in the left part of the cargo space.
b. What is the numerical value of this expression?
c. In the expression, substitute the appropriate decimal for <sup>5</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.
d. Simplify the expression.

e. Using this simplified expression, write the equation that describes the weight on both sides of the cargo space.

f. Translate the expression into words.

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## Your Turn

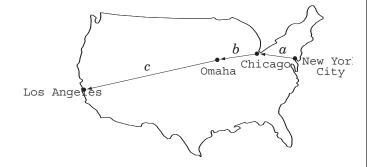


## Simplifying Algebraic Expressions

The distance in miles between New York City and Ios Angeles can be expressed by the following equation where a represents the distance between New York City and Chicago:

$$a + \left[\left(\frac{1}{2} \times a\right) + 58\right] + \left\{4\left[\left(\frac{1}{2} \times a\right) + 58\right] - 241\right\} = 2,856$$

- **1.** Rewrite the expression  $(\frac{1}{2} \times a) + 58$  without using parentheses. \_\_\_\_\_
- **2.** Use the distributive property and simplify the expression  $4[(\frac{1}{2} \times a) + 58$  \_\_\_\_\_.



- **3.** Use your answer in (2) and simplify the expression  $4[\frac{1}{2}(xa) + 58 241]$
- **4.** Using the simplified expressions in (1) and (3), rewrite the equation in terms of a.
- 5. Simplify the left side of the equation in (4) by combining like terms.
- **6.** Use the expression in (5) and rewrite the equation that represents the total distance between New York City and Ios Angeles.

