

Section 2.5 - Reasoning in Algebra

Goals: Complete algebra proofs using the Properties of Equality

Deductive Reasoning:

Using facts, definitions, properties, and the laws of logic to form a logical argument

A **proof** is a logical argument for why a certain statement is true.

You begin a proof with some information given to you, and then must reason your way to your goal statement.

To show that your reasoning is correct, you need to justify each step along the way with a property, definition, postulate, or theorem.

The first column is a series of statements that leads logically from the given statement to the fact that we are	Given: 5x - 7 = 2x Prove: x = 5	+ 8 + 8
proving. Line 1 should contain your given statement.	Statements 1. $5x - 7 = 2x + 8$ 2. $3x - 7 = 8$ 3. $3x = 15$ 4. $x = 5$	JustificationsGivenSubtraction Prop. of =Addition Prop. of =Division Prop. of =
Your last line must be the statement that you were asked to prove.		Justifications can include definitions, properties, postulates, and theorems that have already been accepted as true.

These are the properties you used in algebra to solve equations. They can be used as justifications for steps in your proofs.

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Properties

Property		Example
Addition Property of Equality	If $a = b$, then $a + c = b + c$.	$\frac{x - 2 = 5}{+2} + 2$
Subtraction Property of Equality	If $a = b$, then $a - c = b - c$.	$\frac{x+3=2}{-3-3}$
Multiplication Property of Equality	If $a = b$, then $ac = bc$.	
Division Property of Equality	If $a = b$, then $\frac{a}{c} = \frac{b}{c}$	$\frac{3x=6}{3}$ X=2
Distributive Property	a(b+c) = ab + ac	2(x - 5) = 2x - 10

Justifying Statements Which Property of Equality is being used? x - 3 = 8 5(x - 12) = 87x + 9 = 105x - 60 = 8x = 117x = 1 $\frac{1}{2}x = 9$ $2m \angle ABC = 140$ $m \angle ABC = 70$ x = 18

Adding Justifications

- In a two-column proof your beginning statement will be the information you were given. You just write "given" for its justification

Given: 2x + 15 + 4x = 33Prove: x = 3

Statements	Justifications
1. $2x + 15 + 4x = 33$	Given
2. $6x + 15 = 33$	Simplify
3. $6x = 18$	Subtraction Prop.
4. x = 3	Division Prop.

Adding Justifications	
Given: $3(x - 2) + 2x = 39$ Prove: $x = 9$	
Statements	Justifications
1. $3(x - 2) + 2x = 39$	
2. $3x - 6 + 2x = 39$	
3. $5x - 6 = 39$	
4. $5x = 45$	
5. $x = 9$	

Assignment: Concept 6 Worksheet - due Tuesday 10/8 (front)

1. Given:
$$\frac{4x+6}{2} = 9$$

Prove: $x = 3$

Statement	Justification
$12 \cdot \frac{4x+6}{2} = 9 \cdot 2$	Given
2. $4x + 6 = 18$	Mult. Prop.
3. $4x = 12$	Subtr. Prop.
4. $x = 3$	Division Prop.

Concept 6 Worksheet #1 (front)

REASONING IN ALGEBRA

Fill in the missing justifications for each proof.

1. Given:
$$\frac{4x+6}{2} = 9$$

Prove: $x = 3$

2. Given: 8x - 5 = 2x + 1

Prove: x = 1

Statement	Justification
1. $\frac{4x+6}{2} = 9$	
2. $4x + 6 = 18$	
3. $4x = 12$	
4. $x = 3$	

Statement	Justification
1. $8x - 5 = 2x + 1$	
2. $6x - 5 = 1$	
3. $6x = 6$	
4. $x = 1$	

3. Given: 5(n-3) = 4(2n-7) - 14

Prove: n = 9

Statement	Justification
1. $5(n-3) = 4(2n-7) - 14$	
2. $5n-15 = 8n-28-14$	
3. $5n-15 = 8n-42$	
4. $5n = 8n - 27$	
5. $-3n = -27$	
6. <i>n</i> = 9	

4. Given: 2x - 15 - x = 21 + 10xProve: x = -4

Statement	Justification
1. $2x - 15 - x = 21 + 10x$	
2. $x - 15 = 21 + 10x$	
3. $-15 = 21 + 9x$	
4. $-36 = 9x$	

5. Given: 5(n-1) = 20Prove: n = 5

Statement	Justification	

6. Given: 4r - 5 = 13 + 2rProve: r = 9

5. -4 = x

Statement	Justification
4r-5=13+2r	Given
2r-5-13	Subtr. Prop.
2r = 18	Addition Prop
(=9	Division Prop.