Unit 4 · The Equal Sign and Missing Numbers Cheat Sheet

Unit 4 focus: the equal sign and true or false equations

1 BIG IDEA

The equal sign means “is the same as.” An equation is true when both sides are the same amount.

2 IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

equal sign	Means “is the same as.”	4 + 2 = 6
equation	A number sentence with an equal sign.	8 = 5 + 3
true	Both sides of the equal sign are the same amount.	7 = 7 is true
false	The two sides are not the same amount.	5 + 2 = 8 is false

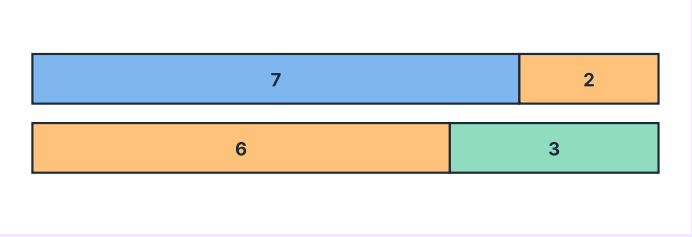
3 HOW IT WORKS

Is 8 = 3 + 5 true?

Example: 8 = 3 + 5
Left side: 8
Right side: 3 + 5 = 8

Answer: true

4 VISUAL MODEL



7 + 2 = 6 + 3. Both bars are 9 long.

5 ★ REMEMBER THIS · WATCH OUT!

★ Remember this

- The answer can be on either side: 9 = 4 + 5.
- Find the amount on each side, then compare.

⚠ Watch out!

- **8 = 3 + 5 is backward:** it is true
- **5 + 2 = 7 + 1:** false: 7 is not 8

6 TRY IT!

1. Is 10 = 6 + 4 true?
   Answer: ɐnɹʇ
2. Is 3 + 3 = 5 true?
   Answer: ǝsɐlɟ

Answers are printed upside down. Turn the page to check!

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More practice: finding unknown numbers and balancing both sides

1 BIG IDEA

To find an unknown, ask: what number makes both sides the same?

2 IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

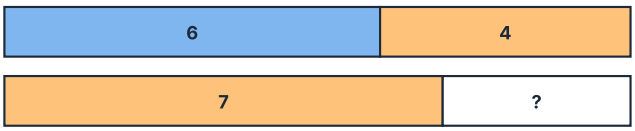
unknown	A missing number in an equation.	4 + ___ = 9
both sides	The amounts to the left and right of the equal sign.	6 + 4 = 5 + 5: both sides are 10
equation	A number sentence with an equal sign.	8 = 5 + 3
equal sign	Means “is the same as.”	4 + 2 = 6

3 HOW IT WORKS

Find the blank: 6 + 4 = 7 + ___

Example: 6 + 4 = 7 + ___
Left side: 10
7 + 3 = 10
Answer: 3

4 VISUAL MODEL



Both bars must be 10 long, so the blank is 3.

5 ★ REMEMBER THIS · WATCH OUT!

★ Remember this

- Put your number in the blank and check.
- Subtraction blanks: 9 − ___ = 5 means 9 − 4 = 5.

⚠ Watch out!

- **6 + 4 = 7 + 10:** the blank is not the total of the left side
- **8 + ___ = 11 → 19:** do not add all the numbers

6 TRY IT!

1. 9 + ___ = 14
   Answer: 5
2. 5 + 5 = 8 + ___
   Answer: 2

Answers are printed upside down. Turn the page to check!