

**Solve Quadratic Equations by Finding Square Roots (4.5)**

You can use square roots to solve some types of quadratic equations. For example, if  $s > 0$ , then the equation  $x^2 = s$  has two real-number solutions:  $x = \sqrt{s}$  and  $x = -\sqrt{s}$ . These solutions are often written in condensed form as  $x = \pm\sqrt{s}$  (read as “plus or minus the square root of  $s$ ”).

Example: Solve  $3x^2 + 5 = 41$ .

*(When you solve and isolate  $x$ , you are doing the reverse order of GEMS)*

$$3x^2 + 5 = 41$$

Write the original equation.

$$3x^2 = 36$$

Subtract 5 from each side.

$$x^2 = 12$$

Divide each side by 3.

$$x = \pm\sqrt{12}$$

Take the square root of each side.

$$x = \pm\sqrt{4} \cdot \sqrt{3}$$

Find the largest perfect square that goes into your radicand and use the product property to separate factors.

$$x = \pm 2\sqrt{3}$$

Simplify.

Therefore the solutions are  $2\sqrt{3}$  or  $-2\sqrt{3}$ .

You can always check to see if your solutions are correct by substituting them back into the original equation and seeing if they produce a true statement.

Example 2: Solve  $\frac{1}{5}(z + 3)^2 = 7$ .

$$\frac{1}{5}(z + 3)^2 = 7$$

Write the original equation.

$$(z + 3)^2 = 35$$

Multiply each side by 5.

$$z + 3 = \pm\sqrt{35}$$

Take the square root of each side.

$$z = -3 \pm \sqrt{35}$$

Subtract 3 from each side.

Therefore the solutions are  $-3 + \sqrt{35}$  and  $-3 - \sqrt{35}$ .

**G**rouping

**E**xponents

**M**ultiplication/ **D**ivision

**S**ubtraction/Addition

Model a dropped object with a quadratic function:

For a science competition, students must design a container that prevents an egg from breaking when dropped from a height of 50 feet. How long does the container take to hit the ground?

$$h = -16t^2 + h_0$$

Write height function where  $h$  represents the height,  $t$  represents the time, and  $h_0$  represents the initial height

$$0 = -16t^2 + 50$$

Substitute 0 for  $h$  and 50 for  $h_0$ .

$$-50 = -16t^2$$

Subtract 50 from each side.

$$\frac{50}{16} = t^2$$

Divide each side by -16.

$$\pm\sqrt{\frac{50}{16}} = t$$

Take the square root of each side.

$$\pm 1.8 \approx t$$

Use a calculator to find an approximate solution.

Reject the negative solution, -1.8, because time must be positive.

The container will fall for about 1.8 seconds before it hits the ground.

**Homework:** p. 270: 23-33 (odds), 38 AND p. 323: 14, 25

p. 270: 23-33 (odds), 38:

Solve the following equations.

23)  $a^2 = 50$

25)  $6z^2 = 150$

27)  $-3w^2 = -213$

29)  $\frac{x^2}{25} - 6 = -2$

31)  $4(x - 1)^2 = 8$

33)  $2(x + 2)^2 - 5 = 8$

38) A cliff diver dives off a cliff 40 feet above water. Write an equation giving the diver's height  $h$  (in feet) above the water after  $t$  seconds. How long is the diver in the air?

p. 323: 14, 25:

Solve the following equations:

14)  $2(m - 7)^2 = 16$

15)  $(x + 2)^2 - 12 = 36$