

## 17 Words to Get You Ready for Algebra

## Learn Words About a New Subject

## Vocabulary Words

**equation**                      **symbol**  
**is greater than**      **variable**  
**is less than**

## Word Learning Tip!

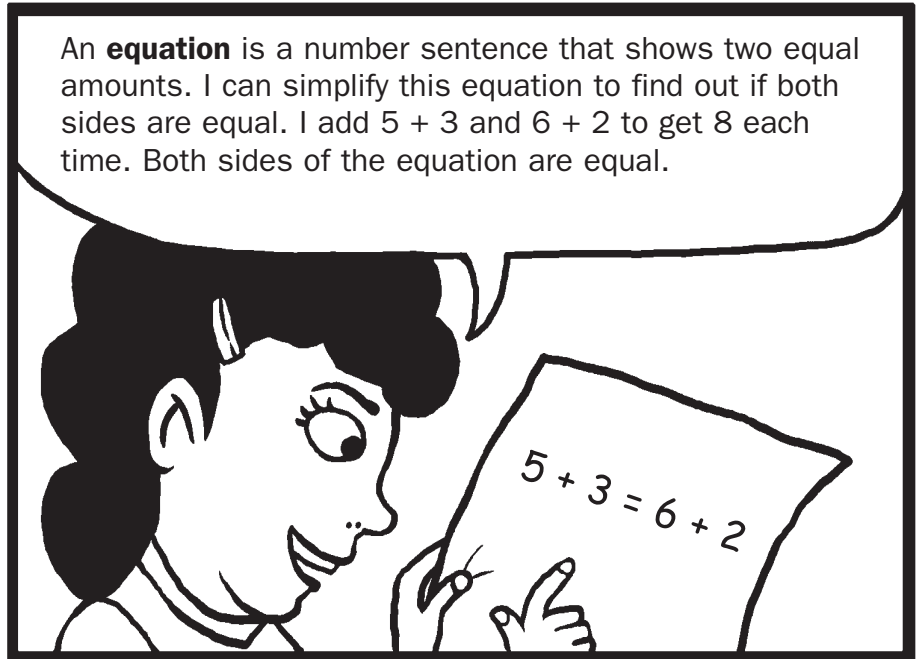
When you read about a new subject in mathematics, such as algebra, you may see content words you don't know. These words are not the words that you read in most other books. They may also be the longest and most difficult words in the text. A clue to their meaning is that content words tell about the main topic. In this lesson, all the context words tell about algebra. Even if you don't know their meaning, you know that they are connected to the idea of algebra.

## Vocabulary Building Strategy

When you read a new content word, you can learn its meaning by thinking about how it relates to the big idea in the text you are reading. Use this big idea to determine the exact meaning of each content word.

**Directions** As you look at the pictures and read the speech balloons, think about how the boldface words are connected to the topic. They work together to give you a big picture of algebra.

An **equation** is a number sentence that shows two equal amounts. I can simplify this equation to find out if both sides are equal. I add  $5 + 3$  and  $6 + 2$  to get 8 each time. Both sides of the equation are equal.



Here's another equation. I know what each **symbol** means: **+** means "plus," **-** means "minus," and **=** means "is equal to." I know that both sides of the equation have to be equal. So, I add  $2 + 2$  and get 4. Then I simplify  $5 - 1$  to get 4. Both sides of the equation are equal.

