



Math Olympiad and Problem Solving Programs  
E120 - Honors Algebra Problem Solving  
Problem Set 19.1 - Special Factorization

Name:

Date:

**Instruction:** Solve the following equations.

1.  $v = \pm 6$

2.  $x = \pm \frac{1}{5}$

3.  $y = \frac{2}{3}$

4. Multiply both sides by the lowest common denominator,  $x(x + 1)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{6}{x} - \frac{3}{x+1} &= 2 \\ x(x+1) \left( \frac{6}{x} - \frac{3}{x+1} \right) &= 2x(x+1) \\ 6(x+1) - 3x &= 2x(x+1) \\ 6x + 6 - 3x &= 2x^2 + 2x \\ 0 &= 2x^2 - x - 6 \\ 0 &= (2x+3)(x-2) \\ x &= \boxed{-\frac{3}{2}, 2}\end{aligned}$$

5.  $m = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}$

6. Multiply both sides by the lowest common denominator,  $x$ :

$$\begin{aligned}10x - \frac{1}{x} &= 3 \\ x \left( 10x - \frac{1}{x} \right) &= 3x \\ 10x^2 - 1 &= 3x \\ 10x^2 - 3x - 1 &= 0 \\ (5x+1)(2x-1) &= 0 \\ x &= \boxed{-\frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{2}}\end{aligned}$$



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7. Multiply both sides by the lowest common denominator,  $2x(x - 1)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{x}{x-1} + \frac{x-1}{x} &= \frac{5}{2} \\ 2x(x-1) \left( \frac{x}{x-1} + \frac{x-1}{x} \right) &= \left( \frac{5}{2} \right) 2x(x-1) \\ 2x^2 + 2(x-1)^2 &= 5x(x-1) \\ 2x^2 + 2(x^2 - 2x + 1) &= 5x^2 - 5x \\ 2x^2 + 2x^2 - 4x + 2 &= 5x^2 - 5x \\ 4x^2 - 4x + 2 &= 5x^2 - 5x \\ 0 &= x^2 - x - 2 \\ 0 &= (x+1)(x-2) \\ x &= \boxed{-1, 2}\end{aligned}$$

8. Multiply both sides by the lowest common denominator,  $2x$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{3x}{2} &= \frac{24}{x} \\ 2x \left( \frac{3x}{2} \right) &= 2x \left( \frac{24}{x} \right) \\ 3x^2 &= 48 \\ x^2 &= 16 \\ x &= \boxed{\pm 4}\end{aligned}$$

9. Multiply both sides by the lowest common denominator,  $11(x - 7)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{11}{x-7} &= \frac{x-7}{11} \\ 11(x-7) \left( \frac{11}{x-7} \right) &= 11(x-7) \left( \frac{x-7}{11} \right) \\ 121 &= (x-7)^2 \\ 121 &= x^2 - 14x + 49 \\ 0 &= x^2 - 14x - 72 \\ 0 &= (x-18)(x+4) \\ x &= \boxed{-4, 18}\end{aligned}$$



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10. Multiply both sides by the lowest common denominator, 3:

$$n + \frac{2}{3} = 9n^2$$

$$3 \left( n + \frac{2}{3} \right) = 3(9n^2)$$

$$3n + 2 = 27n^2$$

$$0 = 27n^2 - 3n - 2$$

$$0 = (3n - 1)(9n + 2)$$

$$n = \boxed{-\frac{2}{9}, \frac{1}{3}}$$