

Steps to solve a linear equation in one variable:

1. Get rid of fractions and/or decimals by using multiplication property of equality. Multiply both sides by:
 - the Least Common Multiple of all the denominators in the equation to remove fractions.
 - a power of 10 just large enough to get rid of decimals. (a 1 followed by as many 0s as the maximum number of digits found to the right of the decimal in any constant or coefficient)
2. Use distributive and/or associative properties to remove any parentheses
3. Combine like terms on each side
4. Use addition property of equality to get variables on one side, constants on the other, combining like terms.
5. Use multiplication property to isolate the variable. (divide by integer coefficients or multiply by the reciprocal of fractional coefficients)
6. Check your *proposed* solution in the original equation.