

Unit 4: Radical Expressions & Equations

4.6 Radical Equations

Radical Equation: an equation with radicals that have variables in the radicands. [In this course we will only be considering radical equations of index 2, ie. square root equations]

When solving radical equation you **MUST** check for extraneous solutions.

To solve radical equations, isolate the radical expression, square both sides, and then solve for the variable.

ex. Solve

a) $5 + \sqrt{2x - 1} = 12$

b) $\sqrt{x + 3} + 8 = 6$

c) $n - \sqrt{5 - n} = -7$

To solve a radical equation with two radicals we may have to square twice.

ex. Solve

a) $\sqrt{3-x} = \sqrt{2x-3}$

b) $7 + \sqrt{3x} = \sqrt{5x+4} + 5$



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