

Will It Balance?

1. Display a one-variable equation that requires the use of the distributive property.

Equation: $10 - 3(m - 5) = 2(5 - m)$

2. Show a partially distributed/solved equation.

Will it balance?: $10 - 3m - 15 = 10 - 2m$

3. Ask students if the partially distributed equation balances correctly. If so, how do they know? If not, where is the error?

Answer: No (-15 should be 15)

Additional problems:

Equation: $2(40 - 5y) = 10y + 5(1 - y)$

Will it balance?: $75 = 15y$

Answer: Yes

Equation: $4(q + 56.5) = 30q - 112$

Will it balance?: $4q + 56.5 = 30q - 112$

Answer: No (56.5 should be 226)

Equation: $-4(2m - 7) = 3(52 - 4m)$

Will it balance?: $-20m = 128$

Answer: No (-20m should be 4m)