

Name: _____

Basic Algebra Vocabulary

In algebra, a **variable** is an unknown quantity. It is often represented by a letter. With a red crayon, circle the variables (or unknown amount) in each of the expressions below.

$6 + x$

$y - 9$

$8z$

$\frac{16}{v}$

A **constant** is a quantity with a value that does not change. It is usually represented by a number. With a blue crayon, circle the constants (or numerical amounts) in each of the expressions below.

$4 + n$

$d - 9$

$2 - m$

$5 + a$

An **expression** is a mathematical phrase with constants, variables, and/or operation symbols. Below each expression, tell what operation is used. Write addition, subtraction, division, or multiplication.

$y - 3$

$6m$

$7 + n$

$\frac{9}{b}$

An **equation** is a mathematical statement that uses an equal sign to show that two or more expressions are equal. Tell whether each item below is an equation or expression.

$9 - n = 15$

$\frac{9}{b}$

$2c = 4$

$8 + a$

$2 + x = 12 + 7$

Is the mathematical statement shown above an equation or an expression? _____

How many variables are in this statement? _____ How many constants? _____

ANSWER KEY

Basic Algebra Vocabulary

In algebra, a **variable** is an unknown quantity. It is often represented by a letter. With a red crayon, circle the variables (or unknown amount) in each of the expressions below.

$6 + \textcircled{x}$

$\textcircled{y} - 9$

$8 \textcircled{z}$

$\frac{16}{\textcircled{v}}$

A **constant** is a quantity with a value that does not change. It is usually represented by a number. With a blue crayon, circle the constants (or numerical amounts) in each of the expressions below.

$\textcircled{4} + n$

$d \textcircled{9}$

$\textcircled{2} \cdot m$

$\textcircled{5} + a$

An **expression** is a mathematical phrase with constants, variables, and/or operation symbols. Below each expression, tell what operation you would use. Write addition, subtraction, division, or multiplication.

$y - 3$

$6 m$

$7 + n$

$\frac{9}{b}$

subtraction

multiplication

addition

division

An **equation** is a mathematical statement that uses an equal sign to show that two or more expressions are equal. Tell whether each item below is an equation or expression.

$9 - n = 15$

$\frac{9}{b}$

$2c = 4$

$8 + a$

equation

expression

equation

expression

$$2 + x = 12 + 7$$

Is the mathematical statement shown above an equation or an expression? equation

How many variables are in this statement? 1

How many constants? 3