

The equals sign means balance

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

A number sentence is a maths statement with numbers and an equals sign. The equals sign means both sides balance and are worth the same amount, no matter which side the sum is on.

→ $5 + 2 = 7$ and $7 = 5 + 2$ are both true, because each side is worth 7.

→ $6 + 4 = 3 + 7$ is true, because both sides make 10.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

BALANCING BOTH SIDES

- 1 The left side is $4 + 6$, which makes **10**.
- 2 The equals sign means the right side must also make **10**.
- 3 So $? + 3 = 10$. $10 - 3 = 7$.

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT Does thinking of equals as balance change how you read a number sentence?

ANSWER KEY

a) 3

b) 7

c) 7

Q1: 3

Q2: true

Q3: false

Q4: 7

a) Always — Both sides are worth 7, so it balances no matter which side the sum is on.

b) Always — The equals sign means the two pans balance, so both sides are equal.

c) Always — The beam balances the same whichever pan holds the sum.

d) Sometimes — It is true only when both sides match, so $4 + 3 = 8$ is false but $4 + 3 = 7$ is true.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: distributive property

S2: distributive property

S3: distributive property

S4: distributive property

S5: distributive property