

Variables

Throughout our study of algebra, we hear about these things called variables.

What is a variable?

Variables are just symbols to represent values that are currently unknown. They stand in the place of numbers.

Ex.

In the expression $3x$, x represents a number and is called a **variable**

In the expression $2x - 4y$, x and y both represent different numbers and are called variables

Throughout algebra, and actually real life, we encounter unknown values that can be expressed as variables. If you go to the grocery store and find that 3 cans of cream corn cost \$1.29, the price of one can is unknown and can be represented by a variable (maybe p for price)