## WALT: Show understanding for the variables

I know I can use an alphabet for an unknown number.

## Variables

Mathematicians simplify statements by using a language in which letters or other symbols represent numbers of objects. This language is called algebra.
Letters and other symbols, when used to take the place of numbers, are called pronumerals. Sometimes they are referred to as variables because the number that they replace can vary.
Statements in which letters are used to represent numbers are called algebraic expressions.

## EXAMPLE 1

a The diagram shows 1 cup and 2 marbles. How many marbles are there altogether if the cup contains:
i 5 marbles?
ii 8 marbles?
iii $w$ marbles?


00
b The diagram shows 3 cups. What is the total number of marbles if each cup contains:
i 5 marbles?
ii 8 marbles?
iii $w$ marbles?

c The diagram opposite shows 2 cups and 3 marbles. How many marbles are there altogether if each cup contains:
i 5 marbles?
ii 8 marbles?
iii $w$ marbles?


000
a i Number of marbles $=5+2=7$
ii Number of marbles $=8+2=10$
iii Number of marbles $=w+2$
b i Number of marbles $=5+5+5=3 \times 5=15$
ii Number of marbles $=8+8+8=3 \times 8=24$
iii Number of marbles $=w+w+w=3 \times w$
c i Number of marbles $=5+5+3=2 \times 5+3=13$
ii Number of marbles $=8+8+3=2 \times 8+3=19$
iii Number of marbles $=w+w+3=2 \times w+3$

## View the video

## Algebra in action

## ExCrCISE /A

1 The diagram shows 1 cup and 4 marbles. Complete the following statements. If the cup contains:
a 6 marbles, the total number of marbles $=$ $\qquad$ $+4=$ $\qquad$ $\prod_{0000}$
b 20 marbles, the total number of marbles $=$ $\qquad$ $+4=$ $\qquad$
c $w$ marbles, the total number of marbles $=$ $\qquad$ $+4$
d $z$ marbles, the total number of marbles $\qquad$ $+$

2 The diagram shows 4 cups. Complete the following statements.
If each cup contains:
a 5 marbles, the total number of marbles $=$ $\qquad$ $+$ $\qquad$ $+$ $\qquad$ $+$ $\qquad$ $=4 \times$ $\square \square \square$
b 8 marbles, the total number of marbles $=$ $\qquad$ $+$ $\qquad$ $+$ $\qquad$ $+$ $\qquad$
$\qquad$
c $w$ marbles, the total number of marbles $=$ $\qquad$ $+\ldots+$ $\qquad$ $+$
$\qquad$ $=$ $\qquad$
d $z$ marbles, the total number of marbles $=$ $\qquad$ $+$ $+\ldots+$ $+\ldots=4 \times \ldots$

3 The diagram shows 3 cups and 2 marbles. Complete the following statements.


If each cup contains:
$\qquad$ $+$ $\qquad$ $+$ $\qquad$ $+2=3 \times$ $\qquad$ $+2=$ $\qquad$
b 10 marbles, the total number of marbles $=$ $\qquad$ $+$ $\qquad$ $+$
$\qquad$ $+2=3 \times$ $\qquad$ $+2=$ $\qquad$
c $k$ marbles, the total number of marbles $=$ $\qquad$ $+\ldots+$ $\qquad$ $+2=3 \times \ldots+2$
d $z$ marbles, the total number of marbles $=$ $\qquad$ $+\ldots+$ $+$ $+2=3 \times$ $\qquad$ $+2$

4 The diagram shows 2 packets and 3 biscuits. How many biscuits are there altogether if each packet contains:
a 20 biscuits?
b 25 biscuits?
c 30 biscuits?
d $k$ biscuits?


5 The diagram shows 4 bottles and 6 pills.
a Find the total number of pills if each bottle contains:
i 20 pills
ii 40 pills
iii 50 pills
b If $t=$ the number of pills in each bottle, write an algebraic expression for the total number of pills.
6 a Draw a diagram to represent 3 packets and 10 nails.
b How many nails are there altogether if each packet contains:
i 25 nails?
ii 60 nails?
iii 100 nails?
c If $m=$ the number of nails in each packet, write an algebraic expression for the total number of nails.


7 a Draw a diagram to represent 5 balls of string plus a length of 0.3 m of string.
b Find the total length of string if each ball has a length of:
i 2 m
ii 6 m iii 10 m
c If $q=$ the length of string, in metres, in each ball, write an expression for the total length of string.

8 a Draw a diagram to represent 6 cartons plus 4 cans of soup.
b Find the total number of cans of soup if each carton contains:
i 20 cans
ii 30 cans
iii 50 cans
c If $d=$ the number of cans of soup in each carton, write an expression for the total number of cans.

## Check your answers



## Exercise 7A

1 a $6+4=10$
b $20+4=24$
c $w+4$
d $z+4$

2 a $5+5+5+5=4 \times 5=20$
b $8+8+8+8=4 \times 8=32$
c $w+w+w+w=4 \times w$
$\mathrm{d} z+z+z+z=4 \times z$
3 a $5+5+5+2=3 \times 5+2=17$
b $10+10+10+2=3 \times 10+2=32$
c $k+k+k+2=3 \times k+2$
d $z+z+z+2=3 \times z+2$
4 a 43
b 53
c 63
d $2 \times k+3$
5 a i 86
ii 166
iii 206
b $4 \times t+6$
6 a
NALLS NALLS NALS
干

## F

## F

TTTTT TTTTT
b i 85
ii 190
iii 310
c $3 \times m+10$
7 a

b i 10.3 m
ii 30.3 m
iii 50.3 m
c $5 \times q+0.3$
8 a

b i 124
ii 184
iii 304
c $6 \times d+4$

