LESSON 4-1

Reading Strategies

Follow a Procedure

The rules for solving equations with rational numbers are the same as equations with whole numbers.

Get the variable by itself.	→	Perform the same operation on both sides to keep the equation balanced.	→	Use the rules for computing rational numbers.

Follow the steps above to help you solve $\frac{1}{4} + y = \frac{3}{4}$.

1. What is the first step to solve this equation?

Get *y* by itself on one side of the equation.

2. What operation should you use?

subtraction

3. Write an equation to show the subtraction of $\frac{1}{4}$ on both sides.

$\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4} + y = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{4}$

4. What is the value of *y*?

$y = \frac{2}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$

Follow the steps above to solve $x - 4.5 = 13$.

5. What is the first step to solve this equation?

Get *x* by itself on one side of the equation.

6. What operation should you use?

addition

7. Write an equation to show the addition of 4.5 to both sides.

$x - 4.5 + 4.5 = 13 + 4.5$

8. Find the value of *x*.

$x = 17.5$

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