Solving the Unknown with Algebra

STEP 1: Isolate *x* on one side of the equation.

$$6x - 26 = 2x + 6$$
$$-2x \qquad -2x$$

Subtract 2x from **BOTH SIDES.**

STEP 2: Move the numbers to the other side.

$$4x - 26 = 6$$
$$+26 \qquad +26$$

Add 26 to **BOTH SIDES.**

STEP 3: Solve for *x*.

$$4x = 32$$
$$/4 \qquad /4$$

Divide **BOTH SIDES** by 4.

$$x = 8$$

Like balancing a scale, whatever you do on one side of an equation, you must do on the other!

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