

# Forming expressions

## Forming Expressions: Words

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### Key idea

An **expression** is a phrase of numbers, variables and operations, with no equals sign, e.g.  $3x + 5$ . In  $5x + 7$ : coefficient 5, variable  $x$ , constant 7.

### Operation words

Sum/more than  $\rightarrow +$ . Difference/less than  $\rightarrow -$ . Product  $\rightarrow \times$ . Quotient  $\rightarrow \div$ .

### Order matters

'5 less than  $p$ ' is  $p - 5$ , **not**  $5 - p$ .

### Common mistake

$2a + 3$  means double  $a$  then add 3. 'Double the sum of  $a$  and 3' is  $2(a + 3)$ .



# Forming expressions

Expressions from Context



## Key idea

Translate each part of the context separately, then combine. Use brackets or a fraction bar to group correctly.

## Taxi fare

\$5 base plus \$3 per km  $k$ :  $5 + 3k$

## Rectangle perimeter

Length  $l$ , width  $l - 3$ :  $P = 2l + 2(l - 3) = 4l - 6$

## Common mistake

An expression needs **no** equals sign. Only add one when stating an equation or formula, e.g.  $P = 4l - 6$ .



**= copy this into your book.** Boxes without a pencil are just to read.