

Maths Star

Forming Expressions

An expression is just a line of algebra, like $a + b$ or $x + y - z$

E.g. Barry goes ice-skating two times a week and it costs X pounds. He goes rock-climbing 4 times a week and it costs Y pounds. What is the expression for the total cost each week?

In this question, the expression is going to show how much he spends on the 2 activities.

Ice-skating costs X pounds, so it will be $2X$ because he does it 2 times
Rock-climbing costs Y pounds, so it will be $4Y$ because he does it 4 times
So, we have $2X$ and $4Y$, which together become:

$$2X + 4Y$$

Try it yourself!

- 1) Mary started with Z sweets. She has eaten 4. What is the expression to show how many sweets she has now?
- 2) Tim has 2 fish. He has to buy each fish a tank (T) and 3 jars of food (F). Write an expression to show how many tanks and jars of food he needs.
- 3) Emma spends B pounds on a yearly bus pass and T pounds on a monthly train ticket. What is the expression to show how much she spends in 1 year?
- 4) Sam is 2 years older than Bob. Bob is Y years older than Bill. Bill is X years old. What is the expression to show how old Sam is?
- 5) Sidney likes to make pies. Every day, he makes a steak pie (S) and 2 fruit pies (F). Write an expression to show how many pies Sidney makes in 1 week.