

Solving Rational Equations 1

Solve each equation. Remember to check for extraneous solutions.

$$1) \frac{3}{m^2} = \frac{m-4}{3m^2} + \frac{2}{3m^2} \rightarrow m \neq 0$$

$$\frac{3}{m^2} \left( \frac{3}{3} \right) = \frac{m-4}{3m^2} + \frac{2}{3m^2}$$

$$\frac{9}{3m^2} = \frac{m-4}{3m^2} + \frac{2}{3m^2}$$

$$9 = (m-4) + (2)$$

$$9 = m - 2$$

$$11 = m$$

$$2) \frac{1}{n} = \frac{1}{5n} - \frac{n-1}{5n} \rightarrow n \neq 0$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \left( \frac{5}{5} \right) = \frac{1}{5n} - \frac{n-1}{5n}$$

$$\frac{5}{5n} = \frac{1}{5n} - \frac{n-1}{5n}$$

$$5 = (1) - (n-1)$$

$$5 = -n + 2$$

$$3 = -n$$

$$n = -3$$

$$5) \frac{3n+15}{4n^2} = \frac{1}{n^2} - \frac{n-3}{4n^2} \rightarrow n \neq 0$$

$$\frac{3n+15}{4n^2} = \frac{1}{n^2} \left( \frac{4}{4} \right) - \frac{n-3}{4n^2}$$

$$\frac{3n+15}{4n^2} = \frac{4}{4n^2} - \frac{n-3}{4n^2}$$

$$3n+15 = (4) - (n-3)$$

$$3n+15 = -n+7$$

$$4n = -8$$

$$n = -2$$

$$6) \frac{1}{2n^2} + \frac{5}{2n} = \frac{n-2}{n^2} \rightarrow n \neq 0$$

$$\frac{1}{2n^2} + \frac{5}{2n} \left( \frac{n}{n} \right) = \frac{n-2}{n^2} \left( \frac{2}{2} \right)$$

$$\frac{1}{2n^2} + \frac{5n}{2n^2} = \frac{2n-4}{2n^2}$$

$$(1) + (5n) = 2n - 4$$

$$3n = -5$$

$$n = -5/3$$

$$9) \frac{6b+18}{b^2} + \frac{1}{b} = \frac{3}{b} \rightarrow b \neq 0$$

$$\frac{6b+18}{b^2} + \frac{1}{b} \left( \frac{b}{b} \right) = \frac{3}{b} \left( \frac{b}{b} \right)$$

$$\frac{6b+18}{b^2} + \frac{b}{b^2} = \frac{3b}{b^2}$$

$$(6b+18) + (b) = 3b$$

$$7b+18 = 3b$$

$$4b = -18$$

$$b = -9/2$$

$$11) \frac{1}{b^2 - 7b + 10} + \frac{1}{b - 2} = \frac{2}{b^2 - 7b + 10}$$

$$\frac{1}{(b-2)(b-5)} + \frac{1}{(b-2)} = \frac{2}{(b-2)(b-5)} \quad b \neq 2, 5$$

$$\frac{1}{(b-2)(b-5)} + \frac{1}{(b-2)} \left( \frac{b-5}{b-5} \right) = \frac{2}{(b-2)(b-5)}$$

$$(1) + (b-5) = 2$$

$$b - 4 = 2$$

$$b = 6$$

$$12) \frac{1}{x^2 - 3x} + \frac{1}{x - 3} = \frac{3}{x^2 - 3x}$$

$$\frac{1}{(x)(x-3)} + \frac{1}{(x-3)} = \frac{3}{(x)(x-3)} \rightarrow x \neq 0, 3$$

$$\frac{1}{(x)(x-3)} + \frac{1}{(x-3)} \left( \frac{x}{x} \right) = \frac{3}{(x)(x-3)}$$

$$\frac{1}{(x)(x-3)} + \frac{x}{(x)(x-3)} = \frac{3}{(x)(x-3)}$$

$$1 + x = 3$$

$$x = 2$$

$$15) \frac{1}{5k^2 + 2k} - \frac{6}{5k + 2} = \frac{6}{5k^2 + 2k}$$

$$\frac{1}{(k)(5k+2)} - \frac{6}{(5k+2)} = \frac{6}{(k)(5k+2)}$$

$$\frac{1}{(k)(5k+2)} - \frac{6}{(5k+2)} \left( \frac{k}{k} \right) = \frac{6}{(k)(5k+2)}$$

$$\frac{1}{(k)(5k+2)} - \frac{6k}{(5k+2)(k)} = \frac{6}{(k)(5k+2)}$$

$$1 - 6k = 6$$

$$-6k = 5$$

$$k = -5/6$$

$$16) \frac{6}{n^2 - 6n + 8} = \frac{1}{n^2 - 6n + 8} - \frac{1}{n - 4}$$

$$\frac{6}{(n-2)(n-4)} = \frac{1}{(n-2)(n-4)} - \frac{1}{(n-4)} \left( \frac{n-2}{n-2} \right)$$

$$\frac{6}{(n-2)(n-4)} = \frac{1}{(n-2)(n-4)} - \frac{n-2}{(n-2)(n-4)}$$

$$6 = (1) - (n-2)$$

$$6 = -n + 3$$

$$3 = -n$$

$$n = -3$$

$$19) \frac{v-3}{v^2 + 3v} = \frac{1}{v+3} - \frac{v-5}{v^2 + 3v}$$

$$\frac{v-3}{(v)(v+3)} = \frac{1}{(v+3)} - \frac{v-5}{(v)(v+3)} \quad v \neq 0, -3$$

$$\frac{v-3}{(v)(v+3)} = \frac{1}{(v+3)} \left( \frac{v}{v} \right) - \frac{v-5}{(v)(v+3)}$$

$$v-3 = (v) - (v-5)$$

$$v-3 = 5$$

$$v = 8$$

Solving Rational Equations 2

Solve each equation. Remember to check for extraneous solutions.

$$1) \frac{k+4}{4} + \frac{k-1}{4} = \frac{k+4}{4k} \rightarrow k \neq 0$$

$$\frac{k+4}{4} \left(\frac{k}{k}\right) + \frac{k-1}{4} \left(\frac{k}{k}\right) = \frac{k+4}{4k}$$

$$\frac{k^2+4k}{4k} + \frac{k^2-k}{4k} = \frac{k+4}{4k}$$

$$(k^2+4k) + (k^2-k) = k+4$$

$$2k^2+3k = k+4$$

$$2k^2+2k-4 = 0$$

$$2(k^2+k-2) = 0$$

$$2(k+2)(k-1) = 0$$

$$\downarrow \quad \downarrow$$

$$k = -2 \quad k = 1$$

$$\text{So } k = -2 \text{ or } 1$$

$$2) \frac{1}{2m^2} = \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow m \neq 0$$

$$\frac{1}{2m^2} = \frac{1}{m} \left(\frac{2m}{2m}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{m^2}{m^2}\right)$$

$$\frac{1}{2m^2} = \frac{2m}{2m^2} - \frac{m^2}{2m^2}$$

$$1 = (2m) - (m^2)$$

$$m^2 - 2m + 1 = 0$$

$$(m-1)(m-1) = 0$$

$$\downarrow \quad \downarrow$$

$$m = 1 \quad m = 1$$

$$m = 1$$

$$5) \frac{k^2+2k-8}{3k^3} = \frac{1}{3k^2} + \frac{1}{k^2} \rightarrow k \neq 0$$

$$\frac{k^2+2k-8}{3k^3} = \frac{1}{3k^2} \left(\frac{k}{k}\right) + \frac{1}{k^2} \left(\frac{3k}{3k}\right)$$

$$\frac{k^2+2k-8}{3k^3} = \frac{k}{3k^3} + \frac{3k}{3k^3}$$

$$k^2+2k-8 = (k) + (3k)$$

$$k^2+2k-8 = 4k$$

$$k^2-2k-8 = 0$$

$$(k-4)(k+2) = 0$$

$$\downarrow \quad \downarrow$$

$$k = 4 \quad k = -2$$

$$\text{So } k = -2 \text{ or } 4.$$

$$6) \frac{k}{3} - \frac{1}{3k} = \frac{1}{k} \rightarrow k \neq 0$$

$$\frac{k}{3} \left(\frac{k}{k}\right) - \frac{1}{3k} = \frac{1}{k} \left(\frac{3}{3}\right)$$

$$\frac{k^2}{3k} - \frac{1}{3k} = \frac{3}{3k}$$

$$k^2 - 1 = 3$$

$$k^2 = 4$$

$$k = -2, +2$$

$$9) \frac{1}{r+3} = \frac{r+4}{r-2} + \frac{6}{r-2}$$

$$\frac{1}{r+3} \left( \frac{r-2}{r-2} \right) = \frac{r+4}{r-2} \left( \frac{r+3}{r+3} \right) + \frac{6}{r-2} \left( \frac{r+3}{r+3} \right) \rightarrow r \neq -3, 2$$

$$\frac{r-2}{(r+3)(r-2)} = \frac{r^2+7r+12}{(r+3)(r-2)} + \frac{6r+18}{(r-2)(r+3)}$$

$$r-2 = (r^2+7r+12) + (6r+18)$$

$$r-2 = r^2+13r+30$$

$$0 = r^2+12r+32$$

$$0 = (r+8)(r+4)$$

$$\begin{matrix} \downarrow & \downarrow \\ r = -8 & r = -4 \end{matrix}$$

So  $r = -8$  or  $-4$

$$10) \frac{a^2-4a-12}{a^2-10a+25} = \frac{6}{a-5} + \frac{a-3}{a-5}$$

$a \neq 5$

$$\frac{a^2-4a-12}{(a-5)(a-5)} = \frac{6}{a-5} \left( \frac{a-5}{a-5} \right) + \frac{a-3}{a-5} \left( \frac{a-5}{a-5} \right) \uparrow$$

$$\frac{a^2-4a-12}{(a-5)(a-5)} = \frac{6a-30}{(a-5)(a-5)} + \frac{a^2-5a+15}{(a-5)(a-5)}$$

$$a^2-4a-12 = (6a-30) + (a^2-5a+15)$$

$$a^2-4a-12 = a^2-2a-15$$

$$0 = 2a-3$$

$$3 = 2a$$

$$a = 3/2$$

$$13) \frac{1}{k} = 5 + \frac{1}{k^2+k}$$

$$\frac{1}{k} = \frac{5}{1} + \frac{1}{(k)(k+1)} \rightarrow k \neq 0, -1$$

$$\frac{1}{k} \left( \frac{k+1}{k+1} \right) = \frac{5(k)(k+1)}{1(k)(k+1)} + \frac{1}{(k)(k+1)}$$

$$\frac{k+1}{(k)(k+1)} = \frac{5k^2+5k}{(k)(k+1)} + \frac{1}{(k)(k+1)}$$

$$k+1 = (5k^2+5k) + (1)$$

$$k+1 = 5k^2+5k+1$$

$$0 = 5k^2+4k$$

$$0 = (k)(5k+4)$$

$$\begin{matrix} \downarrow & \downarrow \\ k = 0 & k = -4/5 \end{matrix}$$



Remember that  $k \neq 0$ .

Throw this answer out!

$$14) \frac{1}{p^2-4p} + 1 = \frac{p-6}{p}$$

$$\frac{1}{p(p-4)} + 1 = \frac{p-6}{p}$$

$$\frac{1}{p(p-4)} + \frac{1}{1} \left( \frac{p(p-4)}{p(p-4)} \right) = \frac{p-6}{p} \left( \frac{p-4}{p-4} \right)$$

$$\frac{1}{p(p-4)} + \frac{p^2-4p}{p(p-4)} = \frac{p^2-10p+24}{p(p-4)}$$

$$(1) + (p^2-4p) = p^2-10p+24$$

$$p^2-4p+1 = p^2-10p+24$$

$$6p-23 = 0$$

$$6p = 23$$

$$p = 23/6$$