Solving a basic equation

$$3x + 4 = 13$$

Always:

1. Isolate the variable.
2. Ensure the variable is positive.

STEP 1:

Subtract 4 from both sides.

$$3x + 4 = 13$$

STEP 2:

Divide both sides by 3.

$$3x = 9$$

The variable has been isolated and it is positive.

$$x = 3$$

If the variable is negative, then multiply all the terms by -1.

Example: $-x = 3$

$x = -3$

The opposite of:

Adding / Multiplying / Squaring **IS** Subtracting / Dividing / Square rooting