GCSE Maths Foundation: Algebra: Expressions and Equations

Test an algebra shortcut

You can draw, point, write or talk it through with someone.

Have a go

One pupil writes 3(x + 2). Another writes 3x + 2. Substitute 4 for x in both expressions. Record each calculation.

Try another step

Draw three equal groups, each containing x and two counters. Use your drawing to expand 3(x + 2). Check your rule using a different value of x.

Check your thinking

For x = 4, the two expressions give 18 and 14. The expansion is 3x + 6.

Explore the book

Tap here or scan the code for the paperback and story preview.