

Defining One Variable in terms of Another Variable

The length of a rectangle is 6 inches more than the width. The perimeter of the rectangle is 24 inches. Find the dimensions of the rectangle.



$$P = 2l + 2w$$

$$24 = 2(w+6) + 2w$$

$$\begin{aligned} w &= \text{width} \\ w+6 &= \text{length} \end{aligned}$$

$$24 = 2w + 12 + 2w$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 24 & = & 4w + 12 \\ -12 & & \cancel{-12} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} l &= \text{length} \\ l-6 &= \text{width} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{12}{4} = \frac{4w}{4}$$

$$\begin{aligned} w+6 \\ 3+6 \end{aligned}$$

$$3 = w$$

inches

$$\begin{aligned} 9 \\ \text{length} \end{aligned}$$

Check Understanding example 1

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$$l = \text{length}$$
$$l-2 = \text{width}$$
$$w = \text{width}$$
$$w+2 = \text{length}$$

$$P = 2l + 2w$$

$$16 = 2l + 2(l-2)$$

$$16 = 2l + 2l - 4$$

$$16 = 4l - 4$$

~~+4~~

$$\frac{20}{4} = \cancel{\frac{4l}{4}}$$

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#1-9

$$5 = l$$

cm

- define
variables

- write
your
equation

- solve