

Missing Numbers

When a letter is used in algebra to represent a missing value it is called a **variable**.

$$63 + a = 79$$

↑
Variable

An **equation** shows when two things are equal using the equals sign.

$$45 + y = 59$$

⏟
Equation

An **expression** is a group of numbers, operations and variables on one side of an equation.

$$56 - w = 45$$

⏟
Expression

The multiplication sign is not used in algebra. The number is always written in front of the variable.

The division sign is not used in algebra. A fraction line is used to show that you divide the top by the bottom.

$$3y = 12$$

$$\frac{20}{g} = 5$$