

Some examples of solving certain types of quadratic equations.

1. To solve a problem like this: $x^2 = 9$

Take the square root of both sides of the equation, giving this: $\sqrt{x^2} = \sqrt{9}$

However, whenever you solve an equation by taking an even root of both sides, you need to remember that the square root of a number has both a positive and negative root, so take this into account by using the \pm notation. like this:

$$\sqrt{x^2} = \pm \sqrt{9}$$

Which simplifies to:

$$x = \pm 3 \quad (\text{since the square root of } x^2 \text{ is } x \text{ and the square root of } 9 \text{ is } 3.)$$

2. Now, for a slightly more complicated problem like this: $(m - 4)^2 = 25$

Take the square root of both sides of the equation, giving this: $\sqrt{(m - 4)^2} = \sqrt{25}$

However, whenever you solve an equation by taking an even root of both sides, you need to remember that the square root of a number has both a positive and negative root, so take this into account by using the \pm notation. like this:

$$\sqrt{(m - 4)^2} = \pm \sqrt{25}$$

Which simplifies to:

$$m - 4 = \pm 5 \quad (\text{since the square root of } (m - 4)^2 \text{ is } (m - 4) \text{ and the square root of } 25 \text{ is } 5.)$$

So how do you finish? Easy! Just remember that ± 5 really means both positive 5 and negative 5. So use both to find your final answer

$$\text{like this:} \quad m - 4 = -5 \quad \text{and} \quad m - 4 = 5$$

$$\implies m = -1 \quad \text{and} \quad m = 9$$

so your two answers are $m = -1$ and $m = 9$.