

Moving Straight Ahead Teaching Aid 3.3A: Set 3 Student Thinking

$$3(x + 1) = 21$$

Corry's Solution

3 times something in the parentheses must be 21.

So $3(\quad) = 21$.

The something is 7.

So $x + 1 = 7$, and

$x = 6$.

$$2 + 3(x + 1) = 6x$$

Hadden's Solution

$2 + 3(x + 1)$ is equivalent to $5(x + 1)$.

So I can rewrite the original equation as $5(x + 1) = 6x$.

Using the Distributive Property, this is the same as

$$5x + 5 = 6x.$$

Subtracting $5x$ from each side, I get $5 = 1x$.

So $x = 5$.

$$-2(2x - 3) = -2$$

Jackie's Solution

By using the Distributive Property on the left-hand side of the equality, I get $-4x - 6 = -2$.

By adding 6 to each side, I get $-4x = 4$.

By dividing both sides by -4 , I get $x = -1$.