

Solving a Rational Equation - Example 3

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

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

So, we will multiply both sides by $(x+2)(x+1)$, which can be distributed to each term

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$$\begin{aligned}\frac{12}{x+2} + \frac{-5}{x+1} &= \frac{30}{x^2+3x+2} = \frac{30}{(x+2)(x+1)} \\ \frac{12\cancel{(x+2)}(x+1)}{x+2} + \frac{-5(x+2)\cancel{(x+1)}}{x+1} &= \frac{30\cancel{(x+2)}\cancel{(x+1)}}{\cancel{(x+2)}\cancel{(x+1)}} = 30 \\ 12(x+1) - 5(x+2) &= 30\end{aligned}$$

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$$12x + 12 - 5x - 10 = 12(x + 1) - 5(x + 2) = 30$$

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All that is left to do is solve: $7x + 2 = 30$

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All that is left to do is solve: $7x + 2 = 30$

Which we can do by Subtracting 2 to get: $7x = 28$

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All that is left to do is solve: $7x + 2 = 30$

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And Dividing by 7 to get: $x = 4$

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Conclusion: The solution to $\frac{12}{x+2} + \frac{-5}{x+1} = \frac{30}{x^2+3x+2}$ is: $x = 4$