

COMMENTS ON TEST II (will be posted on update page)

Comments on Grading:

Answers without explanation were given only 40%.

Word problem (distance, time speed)

You must use algebra. That is the purpose of this course.

Start by describing the variable.

For example, x = speed going to the mountains.

Distance = Speed \times Time

Common Errors:

Absolute value: $|x| = a$ means x could be a or $-a$.

So $|x| = 5$ means x could be 5 or -5 , and so on.

A quadratic equation for which $b^2 - 4ac$ is not zero WILL have two solutions, real or complex.

When you solve something like $u = \sqrt{(11u-28)}$ you must check final answer with original equation

PRACTICE MORE – using ALEKS, with TA or with me, with other students. The e-book has lots of practice problems.

In order to remember which method to use when (such as when to cancel something, when to multiply and divide by something, etc.,) think of some actual numbers instead of x and see what happens. So for example instead of $(x+5)/(x-5)$ think of $(7+5)/(7-5)$. Would you still say it equals -1 ?

Or $7^2 + 5^2$. Would you say it equals $(7+5)^2$?