

Solve the rational equation for x by **clearing the denominators**

1)

$$\frac{1}{7} - \frac{4}{7x} = \frac{6}{x} + \frac{51}{35}$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{7}\right)(35x) - \left(\frac{4}{7x}\right)(35x) = \left(\frac{6}{x}\right)(35x) + \left(\frac{51}{35}\right)(35x)$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{1}\right)(5x) - \left(\frac{4}{1}\right)(5) = \left(\frac{6}{1}\right)(35) + \left(\frac{51}{1}\right)(x)$$

$$5x - 20 = 210 + 51x$$

$$-230 = 46x$$

$$x = \frac{-230}{46}$$

$$x = -5$$

Check to see that this does not give a zero denominator in the original equation: the solution is $x = -5$

2)

$$\frac{1}{8} + \frac{7}{x-3} = 1$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{8}\right)(8(x-3)) + \left(\frac{7}{x-3}\right)(8(x-3)) = 1 \cdot 8(x-3)$$

$$x - 3 + 7(8) = 8(x - 3)$$

$$x - 3 + 56 = 8x - 24$$

$$x + 53 = 8x - 24$$

$$77 = 7x$$

$$11 = x$$

Check to see that this does not give a zero denominator in the original equation: the solution is $x = 11$

3)

$$\frac{24}{t-6} - \frac{144}{t^2-6t} = -4$$

$$\left(\frac{24}{t-6}\right)(t(t-6)) - \left(\frac{144}{t(t-6)}\right)(t(t-6)) = -4t(t-6)$$

$$24t - 144 = -4t^2 + 24t$$

$$4t^2 - 144 = 0$$

$$4t^2 = 144$$

$$t^2 = 36$$

$$t = \pm\sqrt{36} = \pm 6 \text{ by the Square Root Property}$$

So there are two candidates for solutions: $t = 6$ or $t = -6$

By checking in the original equation, we see that $t = 6$ gives a zero denominator, so it is not a solution. (Such “solutions” are sometimes called “extraneous”.) The other candidate works when we check, so there is one solution:

$$x = -6$$