Exercise 53

Greg has nickels and pennies in his pocket. The number of pennies is seven less than three the number of nickels. Let n represent the number of nickels. Write an expression for the number of pennies.

[Replace "three the" with "three times the."]

Solution

Begin by assigning variables to the unknown quantities.

Let n be the number of nickels.

Let p be the number of pennies.

Use the information in the problem to write an equation relating the variables.

The number of pennies is seven less than three times the number of nickels $\quad \Rightarrow \quad p = 3n - 7$