

- 1.1 To begin with, I multiply both sides by 12 (a common denominator); after that, it's pretty straightforward.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{2x}{3} - \frac{x}{2} &= \frac{5}{12}; \\ 8x - 6x &= 5; \\ 2x &= 5; \\ x &= \frac{5}{2}.\end{aligned}$$

If you like, the solution set for x is $\{5/2\}$.

- 1.4 I isolate the square root, square both sides, and check for extraneous solutions.

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{2x - 5} + 2 &= 4; \\ \sqrt{2x - 5} &= 2; \\ 2x - 5 &= 4, \quad 2 \geq 0; \\ 2x &= 9, \quad \text{True}; \\ x &= \frac{9}{2}.\end{aligned}$$

If you like, the solution set for x is $\{9/2\}$.

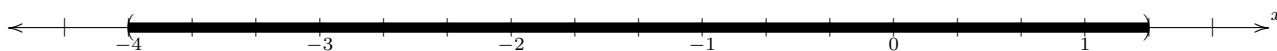
- 1.9 A number must be close to zero if its absolute value is to be small. This gives me a compound inequality with three sides, and I must do the same operations to all of them.

$$\begin{aligned}|3x - 4| &< 8; \\ -8 &< 3x + 4 < 8; \\ -12 &< 3x < 4; \\ -4 &< x < \frac{4}{3}.\end{aligned}$$

In interval notation, the solution set for x is

$$\left(-4, \frac{4}{3}\right).$$

Here is a graph:



- 1.12 I'll use the quadratic formula, with $a = 4$, $b = -4$, and $c = 5$. Then

$$x = \frac{-(-4) \pm \sqrt{(-4)^2 - 4(4)(5)}}{2(4)} = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{-64}}{8} = \frac{4 \pm 8i}{8} = \frac{1}{2} \pm i.$$

If you like, the solution set for x is $\{1/2 + i, 1/2 - i\}$.