Making Sense of Addition and Subtraction Equations

An **equation** is a number sentence that uses an equal sign (=) to show that the value to its left is the same as the value to its right.

12 + 4 = 16 is an example of an equation.

Some equations have letters in them or *unknowns*.

$$9 = n + 2$$

This equation means: 9 is equal to some number + 2

You can find the value of *n* that makes the equation true or equal on each side by thinking of addition or subtraction facts.

Think: You know that 7 + 2 = 9, so n = 7.

In 1-8, write a basic fact that is related to each equation. Then find the value for n that makes the equation true.

1.
$$18 = 9 + n$$

2.
$$n-4=2$$

3.
$$12 = 7 + n$$

4.
$$3 - n = 3$$

6.
$$n-5=6$$

7.
$$6 = 7 - n$$

8.
$$10 + n = 17$$

9. Critique Reasoning Fred decides that 12 + 40 = 62 is NOT a true equation. Is Fred correct? Explain.