## Algebraic Expressions

A mathematical expression with a letter in it is called an **algebraic expression**. The letter represents an unknown or mystery number. The letter used can be any letter in the alphabet.

For example: $7n$ means 7 times some number, $n$.

We use *algebraic expressions* to help us **solve equations**. Before we can use them, we must be able to translate them. Look at the following expressions translated into algebraic expressions.

- eight *more than* a number is expressed as

  $r + 8$

- sixteen *less than* a number is written as

  $y - 16$

- the *product* of a number and 12 looks like

  $12x$

- the **difference** between 19 and $e$ is written as

  $19 - e$

- 4 *less than* 6 times a number means

  $6d - 4$

- the *quotient* of 18 and a number is

  $18 \div y$ *or* $\frac{18}{y}$

- four **cubed** is written as

  $4^3$

- three **squared** is written as

  $3^2$