

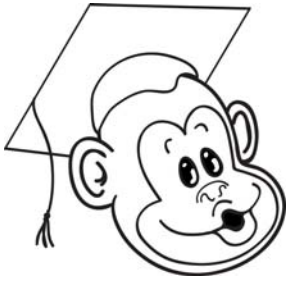


This brainteaser was written by Derrick Niederman.

Algebra exercises often ask students to “Find n .”
But you won’t find n in this brainteaser!

Create an equation of the form $c = ab$ such that:

- when written out in English, none of the numbers a , b , or c contain the letter n
- a , b , and c are all integers
- c has the largest value possible



Solution: $2 \times 44 = 88$.

The following number words do not contain an n :

TWO
THREE
FOUR
FIVE

SIX
EIGHT
TWELVE
THIRTY

FORTY
FIFTY
SIXTY
EIGHTY

It's also possible to combine these words to make others without n , such as THIRTY-FIVE and SIXTY-THREE. But there are no others: all numbers words greater than one-hundred contain an n . (Think about it. The words *hundred*, *thousand*, *million*, *billion*, and so on, all have an n in them.)

Of the possible numbers that can be made from the list above, the greatest is EIGHTY-EIGHT. Luckily, both TWO and FORTY-FOUR can also be made, so $2 \times 44 = 88$ is the equation we're looking for.