

NAME _____

DATE _____

LESSON 4: INTRODUCTION TO THE VARIABLE

DEFINITION: A **Variable** is a symbol or word that may represent some thing or idea that can have a value associated with it. For instance:

EXAMPLE: The temperature outside is a variable since there can be a value attributed to temperature. It could be 20 degrees or it could be 100 degrees.

EXAMPLE: The batting average of a baseball player is also a variable since a player could have an average of 300 or an average of 230.

EXAMPLE: A tree is not a variable. There is no real sense in which we say that a tree is equal to 2 or 3.14.

▶▶ **PROBLEM SET:** For each of the following, determine whether or not the word or symbol is a variable. For each one you determine is a variable, what are some of the values you can attribute to this variable? (See examples above.)

1. The speed of a car
2. Car
3. The height of a tree
4. How much I like class
5. Broom
6. Happy
7. My Age
8. How fast my heart beats
9. The size of my foot
10. X
11. The height at which a plane flies
12. Football
13. The score in a basketball game
14. Flute
15. The loudness of a note
16. Red
17. The darkness of a painting
18. The number of figures in a drawing
19. My favorite movie
20. The length of a football field
21. The weight of a guitar
22. The cost of tea in China
23. The size of the population
24. The number of steps in a dance routine
25. Fun