Common Algebra Mistakes
Fragment: Solving a Linear Equation

The Mistake Fragment

Find the algebra mistake:

$$12x = 15 \times 66 \implies x = \frac{12}{15} \times 66 = \frac{264}{15}$$

Need a hint? Look carefully at the red part of the algebra:

$$12x = 15 \times 66 \implies x = \frac{\textcolor{red}{12}}{\textcolor{red}{15}} \times 66 = \frac{264}{15}$$

The Correction

$$12x = 15 \times 66 \implies x = \frac{\textcolor{blue}{15}}{\textcolor{blue}{12}} \times 66 = \frac{165}{2}$$

An Explanation

The correct first step is to *divide* both sides by 12.