Answer on Question #48700 – Math - Algebra

Suppose $h(x)=x^2+8x+2$, with the domain of h being the set of positive numbers. Evaluate $h^{-1}(10)$

Solution.

$$h(h^{-1}(x)) = x \rightarrow h(h^{-1}(10)) = 10.$$

Let $h^{-1}(10) = y \rightarrow h(y) = 10 \rightarrow y^2 + 8y + 2 = 10 \rightarrow$
 $\rightarrow y^2 + 8y - 8 = 0 \rightarrow y = -4 \pm 2\sqrt{6}$

Domain of h(x) is the set of positive numbers.

Thus, y must be positive, and, finally, $h^{-1}(10) = -4 + 2\sqrt{6}$.