**Simplify the following expression:** 

 $9z^2 + 19z^2 + 13z + 11z + 18 - 2 + 3$ 

# Simplifying Algebraic Expressions

To simplify algebraic expressions, you must combine all like terms.

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Since adding or subtracting unlike terms is like mixing apples and oranges - only like terms can be added or subtracted.

In algebraic expressions, like terms are terms that have the same variable raised to the same power. Only the coefficients of like terms are different.

Examples: 2x and 3x 7x and 10x 4y^2 and 2y^2 4ab and 6ab

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Look at these terms. Let's find all the terms that can be combined.				
3	9v	2 <i>x</i>		
6 <i>x</i>	4xy	22		
2xy	8	16v		
Ť				
ZXY	o	160		

3	9v	2 <i>x</i>	
6 <i>x</i>	4xy	22	
<b>2</b> xy	8	16 <i>v</i>	
3 + 8 = 9v + 16 2x + 6x	$\delta v = 25v$	IS ARE:	

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Usually when we combine like terms we put the terms in alphabetical order. When powers are used, such as  $x^2 + 3x + 5$ , usually the highest powers of the variable are placed first and the number term given last. This is called <u>descending powers</u> of the variable.

### **Properties**

### **Commutative Property of Addition and Multiplication**

Addition The property that states that two or more numbers can be added to any **order** without changing the sum.

8 + 7 = 7 + 8

a+b=b+

<u>Multiplication</u> The property that states that two or more numbers can be multiplied in any**order** without changing the sum.  $6 \times 9 = 9 \times 6$ 

 $a \times b = b \times a$ 

#### **Associative Property of Addition and Multiplication**

Addition The property that states that for all real numbers a, b, and c, the sum is always the same regardless of their **grouping**. a+b+c=(a+b)+c=a+(b+c)

Multiplication: The property that states that for all real numbers, b, and c, the product is always the same regardless of their **grouping**.  $a \times b \times c = (a \times b) \times c = a \times (b \times c)$ 

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Identity Property of One: The property that states that the product to 1 and any number is that number.

5 x 1 = 5

 $a \times 1 = a$ 

Identity Property of Zero: The property that states the sur of zero and any number is that number.

5 + 0 = 5

a + 0 = a

To combine like terms in an algebraic expression use the properties of real numbers:

$$5x + 2y + 3x + 7y$$

$$5x + 3x + 2y + 7y$$
 Commutative Property of Addition

$$(5x + 3x) + (2y + 7y)$$
 Associative Property of Addition

8 x + 9y is in simplest form

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## Let's try it out

1. 
$$4x + 6 - 2x + 9$$

2. 
$$16y + 9 - 7y + 8x$$

3. 
$$17 + 5x + 10x - 2x$$

4. 
$$4x - 2x + 6 + 5x + 3x$$

### **Check Your Answers**

1. 
$$2x + 15$$

2. 
$$8x + 9y + 9$$

3. 
$$13x + 17$$

4. 
$$10x + 6$$

## Let's try some more difficult problems!

- 1. 4p + p
- 2. k + 2k + 23
- 3.6m + 4m + 3
- 4. y + 9 + 14 + 2y
- 5. 9(r+7)+12r
- 6. 14(b+3)+8b
- 7. 18y + 5(7 + 3y)
- 8. 3(8+a)+7(6+4a)

### Let's check our answers

- 1. 5p
- 2. 3k + 23
- 3.10m + 3
- 4. 3y + 23
- 5. 21r + 63 6. 22b + 42
- 7. 33y + 35
- 8. 31a + 66

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# Distributive Property

For any numbers a, b, and c, a(b+c) = ab + ac

and

(b+c)a = ba + ca

If you multiply a sum by a number, you will get the same result if you multiply each addend by that number and then add the products.

$$5(20+1) = (5x20) + (5 x 1)$$

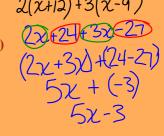
Simplify each of the following expressions and write the property that allows you to complete each step:

a. 
$$r + 3(z + 8r)$$

b. 2(n+3)+4(3n+2)

c. 6(x+y) + 4x - 6y

d. 2(x+12)+3(x-9)



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a. r + 3(z + 8r)

r + 3z + 24r distributive property

r + 24r + 3z

(r + 24r) + 3z

25r + 3z

b. 2(n + 3) + 4(3n + 2)

2n + 6 + 12n + 8

2n + 12n + 6 + 8

(2n + 12n) + (6 + 8)

14n + 14
```

```
c. 6(x + y) + 4x - 6y

6x + 6y + 4x - 6y

6x + 4x + 6y - 6y

(6x + 4x) + (6y - 6y)

10x

d. 2(x + 12) + 3(x - 9)

2x + 24 + 3x - 27

2x + 3x + 24 - 27

(2x + 3x) + (24 - 27)

5x - 3
```

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### Simplify each of the following:

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a. 80x + 2y - 15x + 3y
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b. 
$$80y \div 2 \times 6 + 4y$$

c. 
$$6x \times 3 + 9 - 1$$

d. 
$$3x + 10(2x - 4) + 32x - 2^4$$

e. 
$$3x + 10 \times 2x - 4 + 32x + 2^4$$

### Answers

### a. 65x + 5y

In the blank write the property that allows you to g from one step to the next in the example below:

$$3(w+5)+5w+2$$

$$3w + 15 + 5w + 2$$

$$3w + 5w + 15 + 2_{\underline{\phantom{0}}}$$

$$(3w + 5w) + (15 + 2)$$

8w + 17

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1. 8x - 3x

2. 3c + 9y - 5c 3. -4m + 5m - 7mn 4. 6ab + 4bc - 3ab + bc 5. 7x<sup>2</sup>y - 2x<sup>2</sup>y + 5xy<sup>2</sup> - 3xy<sup>2</sup> 6. 3c + 9y d. 3ab + 5bc e. -2c + 9y

6. -4m - 7mn + 8n

7. 8c + 9y -5c

a.  $5x^2y + 2xy^2$ 

b. 5x

f. -4m + 7mn + 8n

g. m - 7mn

Combining Like Terms (Collecting)

- 1. Clear the parentheses using the distributive property.
- 2. Combine like terms by adding coefficients.
- 3. Combine the constants.

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1. 3(2x + 5) + 6(x + 2)=\_\_\_\_\_distributive property =\_\_\_\_combine like terms

2. 3(2x + 5) + 6(x + 2)

=\_\_\_\_\_distributive property =\_\_\_\_combine like terms

3. 7(3x + 9) + 6(2x + 5)

\_\_\_\_\_distributive property \_\_\_\_combine like terms

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