

I'm not a bot



pression: A polynomial where the highest exponent is ≤ 2 (like $x^2 + 5$). Applying Exponent Rules What it means: An exponent tells you how many times to multiply a number or variable by itself. So x^2 just means $x \times x$. Subtract: There are a few simple rules that help you simplify expressions with exponents, especially when you're multiplying or dividing terms with the same base. It might be complicated, but it's mostly pattern recognition – once you know the rules, the math gets a lot lighter. Example: $5x^2 \times x^3$ When you divide terms with the same base, you subtract the exponents: $5x^2 \div x^3 = x^{-1}$ Because you're taking away two of the x 's. In real life: Say you're watching your social media feed and you see a post that says "5 likes" and you click the heart button. Now you have 10 likes. That's like $5x^2 + x^2 = 6x^2$. Variable being multiplied (in x^2 , x is the base) Power: The full expression with a base and exponent, like x^2 Exponent rule: A shortcut for simplifying expressions with exponents Negative exponent: An exponent that tells you to divide instead of multiply, like $x^{-2} = 1/x^2$ 6. Removing Unnecessary Parentheses What it means: Parentheses are used in math to group things together and show what should happen first. But sometimes, once everything inside is simplified, the parentheses are just... clutter. You can remove them, as long as there's no multiplication or a minus sign waiting to change what's inside. Example: $3(x + 2) + 1 = (x - 5)$ There's no multiplication, no minus outside, so you can drop the parentheses and combine like terms: $3x + x + 4x - 2 - 5 = -3$ Simplified expression: $4x - 7$ But be careful with subtraction: If there's a minus sign in front of the parentheses, that minus applies to everything inside. Example: $5 - (2x + 3)$ You need to distribute the negative: $5 - 2x - 3$ Then combine terms: $5 - 2x + 2 = 3 - 2x$ In real life: Parentheses are like grouping things in your planner. "Do homework (math and science)" is one thing. "Cancel (math and science)" is very different. Same in math, what's inside the parentheses might not change, but what's around them matters. Key Terms: Parentheses: Curved brackets used to group terms or expressions Group: A set of terms treated as one unit Distribute: To apply multiplication or subtraction across a group Simplify: To clean up an expression and write it in its simplest form Quick Reference: Simplifying Techniques at a Glance Technique What You're Doing Example Everyday Logic Combine Like Terms Grouping terms that share the same variable $3x + 5x = 8x$ Adding up how much money you have in different pockets Simplify Fractions Reducing fractions by dividing numerator and denominator by the same number $2/4 = 1/2$ Cutting a pizza into halves and then into quarters Reworking Expressions Rewriting as multiplication of simpler expressions $5x^2 + 6x = x(x + 2)(x + 3)$ Repackaging a messy suitcase into neat, labeled sections Exponent Rules Using shortcuts to multiply or divide powers $x^2 \times x^3 = x^5$ Watching your followers grow – doubling day after day Removing Parentheses Cleaning up extra grouping when it's safe $3(x + 2) + 1 = (x - 5)$ Simplifying a to-do list once you know the order of tasks Putting It All Together: Full Simplification Examples Now that you know the core techniques, let's look at how they work in real problems. These examples mix steps like distributing, factoring, reducing, and combining like terms – because in actual math class, you don't get one skill at a time. You get the whole lot together. Let's untangle it together. Example 1: Simplify $2(x + 3) + 4 - (x - 5)$ Step 1: Apply the distributive property Multiply the 2 across the first group: $2(x + 3)$ becomes $2x + 6$ Distribute the minus sign in front of the second group: $-(x - 5)$ becomes $-x + 5$ New expression: $2x + 6 + 4 - x + 5$ Step 2: Combine like terms Combine the x terms: $2x + 4 - x = x$ Combine the constants: $6 + 4 + 5 = 15$ Final Answer: $x + 15$ What You Used: Distributive property Removing parentheses Combining like terms Example 2: Simplify $(3x^2 + 6x) / (2x + 3)$ Step 1: Reduce the fraction Factor the numerator: $3x^2 + 6x = 3x(x + 2)$ Factor the denominator: $2x + 3$ New expression: $3x(x + 2) / (2x + 3)$ Step 2: Distribute Expand $3x(x + 2)$ to get $3x^2 + 6x$ New expression: $3x^2 + 6x / 2x + 3$ Step 3: Combine like terms $3x^2 - x^2 = 0$ $5x^2 + 2x = 4x$ Final Answer: $4x$ What You Used: Factoring Reducing fractions Distributive property Combining like terms Example 3: Simplify $5x^2 + 6x - 4x^2 + 3x - 2$ Step 1: Combine like terms $5x^2 - 4x^2 = x^2$ $6x + 3x = 9x$ -2 Final Answer: $x^2 + 9x - 2$ What You Used: Combining like terms Example 4: Simplify $5x^2 + 6x - 4x^2 + 3x - 2$ Step 1: Combine like terms $5x^2 - 4x^2 = x^2$ $6x + 3x = 9x$ -2 Final Answer: $x^2 + 9x - 2$ What You Used: Combining like terms Example 5: Simplify $5x^2 + 6x - 4x^2 + 3x - 2$ Step 1: Combine like terms $5x^2 - 4x^2 = x^2$ $6x + 3x = 9x$ -2 Final Answer: $x^2 + 9x - 2$ What You Used: Combining like terms Example 6: Simplify $5x^2 + 6x - 4x^2 + 3x - 2$ Step 1: Combine like terms $5x^2 - 4x^2 = x^2$ $6x + 3x = 9x$ -2 Final Answer: $x^2 + 9x - 2$ What You Used: Combining like terms Example 7: Simplify $5x^2 + 6x - 4x^2 + 3x - 2$ Step 1: Combine like terms $5x^2 - 4x^2 = x^2$ $6x + 3x = 9x$ -2 Final Answer: $x^2 + 9x - 2$ What You Used: Combining like terms Example 8: Simplify $5x^2 + 6x - 4x^2 + 3x - 2$ Step 1: Combine like terms $5x^2 - 4x^2 = x^2$ $6x + 3x = 9x$ -2 Final Answer: $x^2 + 9x - 2$ What You Used: Combining like terms Example 9: Simplify $5x^2 + 6x - 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4x^2 + 3x - 2$ Step 1: Combine like terms $5x^2 - 4x^2 = x^2$ $6x + 3x = 9x$ -2 Final Answer: $x^2 + 9x - 2$ What You Used: Combining like terms Example 27: Simplify $5x^2 + 6x - 4x^2 + 3x - 2$ Step 1: Combine like terms $$