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Introduction to Algebraic Expressions and Identities

Algebraic Expressions

Algebraic expressions are expressions made up of **variables** and **constants** along with mathematical operators. Algebraic expressions have no sides or equal to sign like algebraic equations.

Examples of algebraic expressions are: $2x+4$, $7y-3+6x$, $3t^2+4t-1$.

Terms

Terms are the **individual building blocks** of expressions. They add up to form expressions. A term is a **product** of its **factors**.

For example, the expression $5xy - 3$, is made up of two terms, $5xy$ and (-3) .

Factors

Factors are those **variables** or **constants**, whose **product** form a **term** of an expression.

For example, 8 , p and q are the factors of the term $8pq$.

Factors are such that they can not be factorised further.

The product of factors forms a term and the summation of the terms forms an expression.

Coefficients

The **numerical factor** of a term is called the **coefficient** of that **term**.

For the terms, $6y$ and $2xy$, the coefficient of $6y$ is 6 and the coefficient of $2xy$ is 2 .

Like Terms

Like terms are those terms which have **same variables** raised to the **same power**. Like terms have same **algebraic factors**. The **numerical coefficient** of like terms can be **different**.

For example, $3x^2y$ and $5x^2y$ are like terms.

Monomial

An **expression** with only **one term** is called a **monomial**.

Examples of monomials: $6x$, $7pq$, x^2y , $9xyz$, $4bc$ etc.

Binomial

An **expression** which contains two **unlike terms** is called a **binomial**.

Examples of binomials: $4y-3z$, x^6-2 , $pq+1$, etc.

Polynomial

Expressions that have more than **two terms** with **non-zero coefficients** and variables having **non-negative integral exponents** are called polynomials.

Examples: $a+b+c+2$, $7xy-8x+2+3y$, $5t^3-7t+k+3$.

Algebraic Identities

- $(a+b)^2=a^2+2ab+b^2$
- $(a-b)^2=a^2-2ab+b^2$
- $(a+b)(a-b)=a^2-b^2$

Addition and Subtraction of Algebraic Expressions

- ❖ When we are **adding** or **subtracting** two **algebraic expressions**, we can only add or subtract **like terms**.
- ❖ The sum of two or more like terms is a like term, with a **numerical coefficient** equal to the **sum of the numerical coefficient** of all the like terms.
- ❖ Similarly, the difference between two like terms is a like term with a **numerical coefficient** equal to the **difference between the numerical coefficients** of the two like terms.

Suppose if we have to add $3x^2y+y+z$ and $4x^2y+7a+5z$, we will combine all the like terms and then add their numerical coefficients.

$$(3x^2y + 4x^2y) + (y) + (7a) + (z + 5z) = 7x^2y + y + 7a + 6z$$

Multiplication of Algebraic Expressions

Multiplication of Monomials

When we multiply two monomials:

- the numerical coefficient of the terms is equal to the product of the numerical coefficient of both the terms.
- the exponent or power of each algebraic factor is equal to the sum of the exponents of that algebraic factor in both the monomials.

Multiplying two monomials:

- $x \times 3y = x \times 3 \times y = 3 \times x \times y = 3xy$
- $3x \times 2y = 3 \times x \times 2 \times y = 3 \times 2 \times x \times y = 6xy$
- $5x \times (-2z) = 5 \times (-2) \times x \times z = -10xz$

Multiplying three or more monomials:

- $2x \times 3y \times 5z = (2x \times 3y) \times 5z = 6xy \times 5z = 30xyz$
- $4xy \times 5x^2y^2 \times 6x^3y^3 = (4xy \times 5x^2y^2) \times 6x^3y^3 = 20x^3y^3 \times 6x^3y^3 = 120x^6y^6$

Distributive Property of Multiplication

The distributive property is an algebraic property that is used to multiply a **single value** and two or more values within a set of parenthesis.

Consider the expression : $6 \times (2+4x)$

$$=(6 \times 2) + (6 \times 4x)$$

$$=12 + 24x$$

Here, we have used **distributive law** to multiply a monomial and a binomial.

Multiplication of any Polynomial

When we multiply any two polynomials, we multiply **all the terms or monomials** of one polynomial with **all the terms** of another polynomial.

When we multiply two binomials, every term in one binomial multiplies every term in the other binomial.

- Multiplying a binomial by a binomial

$$(3a + 4b) \times (2a + 3b)$$

$$= 3a \times (2a + 3b) + 4b \times (2a + 3b)$$

$$= (3a \times 2a) + (3a \times 3b) + (4b \times 2a) + (4b \times 3b)$$

$$= 6a^2 + 9ab + 8ab + 12b^2$$

$$= 6a^2 + 17ab + 12b^2$$

When we multiply a binomial by a trinomial, each of the three terms of the trinomial is multiplied by each of the two terms of the binomial.

- Multiplying a binomial by a trinomial

$$(p + 4) \times (p^2 + 2p + 3)$$

$$= p \times (p^2 + 2p + 3) + 4 \times (p^2 + 2p + 3)$$

$$= (p^3 + 2p^2 + 3p) + (4p^2 + 8p + 12)$$

$$= p^3 + 6p^2 + 11p + 12$$