

Lesson 28

Factoring Trinomials of the Type $ax^2 + bx + c$, by Grouping

Review FOIL:

$$\begin{aligned} & (2x + 3)(5x + 4) \\ & 2x(5x) + 2x(4) + 3(5x) + 3(4) \\ \text{4 Terms} \quad \longrightarrow \quad & 10x^2 + 8x + 15x + 12 \\ & \qquad\qquad\qquad \text{Like Terms} \\ & 10x^2 + 23x + 12 \end{aligned}$$

Factoring a Trinomial with Grouping:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Break into like terms} \\ \text{4 terms} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 10(12) \\ 10x^2 + 23x + 12 \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ 10x^2 + 8x + 15x + 12 \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ 2x(5x + 4) + 3(5x + 4) \\ (5x + 4)(2x + 3) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} 10(12) = \\ \hline 1 \quad 120 \\ 2 \quad 60 \\ 3 \quad 40 \\ 4 \quad 30 \\ 5 \quad 24 \\ 6 \quad 20 \\ +8x \quad +15x \\ \hline 10 \quad 12 \end{array}$$

Steps to follow . . .

1. Multiply the first and last numbers together.
2. Find all factor pairs of this product.
3. Find the factor pair that adds or subtracts to the middle number.
4. Assign the signs to each number in the factor pair.
5. Put an x after each number in the factor pair.
6. Replace the middle term in the trinomial with these 2 expressions.
7. Factor by grouping.

Examples: Factor each trinomial.

$$\begin{aligned} 1. \quad & 6n^2 + 23n + 7 \quad \begin{array}{r} 6(7) \\ \hline + 42 \\ \hline 1 \quad 42 \\ + 2n \quad + 21n \\ \hline 3 \quad 14 \\ 6 \quad 7 \end{array} \\ & 6n^2 + 2n + 21n + 7 \\ & 2n(3n+1) + 7(3n+1) \\ & (3n+1)(2n+7) \end{aligned}$$

$$2. \quad 2y^2 + 5y + 2$$

$\overbrace{2y^2 + y} + \overbrace{4y + 2}$

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ +1y +4y \\ \hline 2 \quad 2 \end{array}$$

$$y(2y+1) + 2(2y+1)$$

$$(2y+1)(y+2)$$

$$3. \quad 7x^2 - 26x - 8$$

$\overbrace{7x^2 + 2x} - \overbrace{28x - 8}$

$$\begin{array}{r} -56 \\ 1 \quad 56 \\ +2x -28x \\ \hline 4 \quad 14 \\ 7 \quad 8 \end{array}$$

$$x(7x+2) - 4(7x+2)$$

$$(7x+2)(x-4)$$