

Two Different Approaches to Factoring Quadratics

Factoring Quadratic Trinomials Notes

There are several ways we can factor a polynomial of the form $ax^2 + bx + c$, $a \neq 0$.

Example 1: Factor $x^2 + 5x + 6$

Step 1: List the factors of 6:

Step 2: The value of c , 6, is positive. Which factors of 6 add up to 5?

Step 3: The signs of the factors will be positive because b is positive.

Factored version: $(x + 3)(x + 2)$

Step 4: **CHECK YOUR WORK.** Multiply your answer and check it is what we started with.

Example 2: Factor $x^2 - 5x - 6$

Step 1: List the factors of 6:

Step 2: The value of c , -6, is negative. Which factors of 6 when subtracted give 5? Which factor should be negative and which should be positive?

Step 3: The signs of the 6 should be negative since b is negative 5

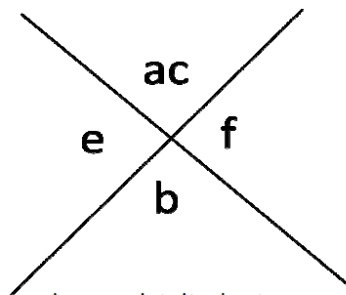
Factored version: $(x - 6)(x + 1)$

Method 3: Diamond Method

This method works for any value of a .

Steps:

- In the top, put the product of a and c .
- In the bottom, put the value of b .
- The left and the right locations are the numbers that when multiplied, give us ac , and when added, give us b , that is $ef = ac$ and $e + f = b$.
- Put a fraction bar over the left and right values, and put a on top. Reduce.
- The top part of the fraction bar is the x -coefficient of the binomial factor, and the bottom part is the constant part.



Example: $2x^2 - 5x - 3$

1)

2)

3)

4)
$$\frac{2x}{-6} = \frac{x}{-3} \rightarrow x - 3$$

$$\frac{2x}{1} \rightarrow 2x + 1$$

The Zero Product Property

Quadratic equations in factored form can be solved by using the Zero Product Property which states: If the product of two quantities equals zero, at least one of the quantities must equal zero.

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{If } (x)(y) = 0, \text{ then} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ x = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad y = 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{If } (x + 3)(x - 2) = 0, \text{ then} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ x + 3 = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x - 2 = 0 \end{array}$$

You can use the Zero Product Property to solve any quadratic equation written in factored form, such as $(a + b)(a - b) = 0$.

Examples: Solve the quadratic equations by factoring

1) Solve $y = x^2 + 4x - 5$ We substitute zero for y because ZEROES are the SOLUTIONS of quadratic equations.

$$0 = x^2 + 4x - 5 \quad \text{Now we factor the quadratic (see previous lessons) to find the ZEROES.}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 0 = (x + 5)(x - 1) \\ \mathbf{x + 5 = 0 \text{ or } x - 1 = 0} \\ \mathbf{x = -5 \text{ or } x = 1} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Find the zeros of } (x + 5)(x - 1) = 0 \text{ by setting each factor equal to 0.} \\ \text{Set each factor equal to 0.} \\ \text{Solve each equation for } x. \end{array}$$

2) Solve $(x - 7)(x + 2) = 0$.

$$x - 7 = 0 \text{ or } x + 2 = 0$$

$$x = 7 \text{ or } x = -2$$

Set each factor equal to 0.

Solve each equation for x .

Using Zero Product Property Example (Given Factored Form):

Problem: Find the solutions for: $(x+2)(x-5)=0$

What to do: Set each factor to zero and then solve.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Work:} \\ x+2 = 0 \\ x = -2 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} x-5 = 0 \\ x = 5 \end{array}$$

Using Zero Product Property Example (Given in Standard Form and not factored):

Problem: Find the solutions for: $x^2 - 4x - 12 = 0$

What to do: Fire Factor, then Set each factor to zero, and then solve.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Work:} \\ (x-6)(x+2)=0 \\ x+2=0 \\ x = -2 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} x-6 = 0 \\ x = 6 \end{array}$$

Factoring Trinomials ($a = 1$)

Factor each completely.

1) $b^2 + 8b + 7$

2) $n^2 - 11n + 10$

3) $m^2 + m - 90$

4) $n^2 + 4n - 12$

5) $n^2 - 10n + 9$

6) $b^2 + 16b + 64$

7) $m^2 + 2m - 24$

8) $x^2 - 4x + 24$

Solve each equation by using the zero product property.

1) $(n - 5)(n + 3) = 0$

2) $(x - 3)(x + 1) = 0$

3) $(a + 3)(a + 8) = 0$

4) $m(m + 7) = 0$

5) $(3x - 8)(x - 3) = 0$

6) $(3p + 1)(8p - 3) = 0$

7) $(a - 7)(a - 3) = 0$

8) $(4v + 5)(v + 7) = 0$

9) $3p(5p - 1) = 0$

10) $(v + 8)^2 = 0$

Solve each equation by factoring.

1) $x^2 + 10x + 21 = 0$

2) $a^2 + 7a - 8 = 0$

3) $k^2 + 2k - 35 = 0$

4) $4x^2 + 20x - 24 = 0$

5) $3n^2 - 75 = 0$

6) $v^2 - 5v = 0$

Algebra 1 Summary Assignment Week 2

Factor Completely. If non-factorable, say so.

1. $2a^2 - 6a$	2. $x^2 - 26x + 25$
3. $x^2 + 12x + 36$	4. $y^2 - 4y - 45$
5. $w^2 - 6w + 7$	6. $2x^2 + 10x + 8$

Solve for x. Show all work. Circle your answers.

7. $x^2 - 3x = 0$	8. $(2x - 5)(x + 7) = 0$
9. $x^2 + 2x - 15 = 0$	10. $x^2 + 5x = 24$