Factoring Quadratic Expressions

Reteaching 5-4

OBJECTIVE: Factoring quadratic expressions

MATERIALS: None

Example

Factor the expression $6x^2 - 5x - 4$.

a = 6, b = -5, and c = -4ac = -24 and b = -5

 \leftarrow Find *a*, *b*, and *c*; they are the coefficients of each term. \leftarrow We are looking for factors with product *ac* and sum *b*.

Factors of -24	1, -24	-1,24	2, -12	-2,12	3, -8	-3,8	4, -6	-4,6
Sum of factors	-23	23	-10	10	-5	5	-2	2

The factors 3 and -8 are the combination whose sum is -5.

$6x^2 + 3x -$	$-\underline{8x-4}$	-	Rewrite the middle term using the factors you found.
3x(2x + 1) - 4(2x + 1)		-	Find common factors by grouping the terms in pairs.
(3x - 4)(2x)	(x + 1)	-	Rewrite using the Distributive Property.
Check:	(3x - 4)(2x + 1)	-	You can check your answer by multiplying it back together.
	$6x^2 + 3x - 8x - 4$		
	$6x^2 - 5x - 4$		

Remember that not all quadratic expressions are factorable.

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Exercises

Factor each expression.

1. $x^2 + 6x + 8$	2. $x^2 - 4x + 3$	3. $2x^2 - 6x + 4$
4. $2x^2 - 11x + 5$	5. $2x^2 - 7x - 4$	6. $4x^2 + 16x + 15$
7. $x^2 - 5x - 14$	8. $7x^2 - 19x - 6$	9. $x^2 - x - 72$
10. $2x^2 + 9x + 7$	11. $x^2 + 12x + 32$	12. $4x^2 - 28x + 49$
13. $x^2 - 3x - 10$	14. $2x^2 + 9x + 4$	15. $9x^2 - 6x + 1$
16. $x^2 - 10x + 9$	17. $x^2 + 4x - 12$	18. $x^2 + 7x + 10$
19. $x^2 - 8x + 12$	20. $2x^2 - 5x - 3$	21. $x^2 - 6x + 5$
22. $3x^2 + 2x - 8$	23. $2x^2 + 11x + 5$	24. $x^2 + 3x - 28$

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