

Factoring Trinomials: $ax^2 + bx + c$

Algebra 1 • Section 8.3

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 12

Quick Review and Helpful Hints

Polynomial work is pattern work. Keep like terms together, apply exponent rules only when the bases match, and check factoring by multiplying the factors back together.

▷ **Example:** Factor $x^2 + 9x + 20$.

Work: Look for two numbers that multiply to 20 and add to 9. The numbers are 4 and 5.

★ **Answer:** $(x + 4)(x + 5)$

◆ Practice Problems

Solve each problem. Show enough work that another student could follow your thinking.

1. Factor $2x^2 + 7x + 3$.

6. Factor $2x^2 - 9x + 10$.

2. Factor $3x^2 + 10x + 8$.

7. Factor $3x^2 - 12x$.

3. Factor $4x^2 - 12x + 9$.

8. Factor $4x^2 - 25$.

4. Factor $6x^2 + x - 2$.

9. Factor $2x^2 + 5x + 5$ over the integers.

5. Factor $5x^2 - 13x + 6$.

10. Factor $8x^2 + 14x + 3$.

◆ Word Problems

11. A rectangle has area $3x^2 + 17x + 10$. Factor it.

12. A projectile equation factors from $2t^2 - 11t + 5$. Factor it.



Answer Keys

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. $(2x + 1)(x + 3)$ | 7. $3x(x - 4)$ |
| 2. $(3x + 4)(x + 2)$ | 8. $(2x - 5)(2x + 5)$ |
| 3. $(2x - 3)^2$ | 9. Prime |
| 4. $(3x + 2)(2x - 1)$ | 10. $(4x + 1)(2x + 3)$ |
| 5. $(5x - 3)(x - 2)$ | 11. $(3x + 2)(x + 5)$ |
| 6. $(2x - 5)(x - 2)$ | 12. $(2t - 1)(t - 5)$ |

Step-by-Step Explanations

- Splitting the middle as $6x + x$ lets you group; check that $2x^2 + 6x + x + 3$ rebuilds it.
- Test the pairing: the inner and outer products $6x$ and $4x$ should total $10x$.
- The ends $4x^2$ and 9 are squares, and $-12x$ matches twice their product — a perfect square.
- With a leading 6 , try factors until the middles $-3x$ and $4x$ add to just x .
- Both signs go negative for a positive constant; check that $-10x - 3x$ gives $-13x$.
- Aim for middle terms that sum to $-9x$ — here $-4x$ and $-5x$ do exactly that.
- No constant term here, so start by pulling the shared $3x$ out front.
- Two perfect squares with a minus between them — classic difference of squares.
- No integer binomials can produce both the $5x$ middle and the 5 constant, so it's prime.
- Verify the split: the cross products $12x$ and $2x$ combine into $14x$.
- Breaking it apart gives $3x^2 + 15x + 2x + 10$, which confirms the factors.
- Both middle terms turn out negative: $-10t$ and $-t$ stack into $-11t$.



Want Even More Algebra 1 Practice?



New Jersey Algebra I Preparation Bundle

18 full-length practice tests across three books
Fresh test practice, detailed explanations, and
organized review



18 Tests
3 Books
One Bundle

Important: These Algebra 1 resources are made for extra practice after the worksheet. Use the QR code for the state or program bundle connected with this worksheet.

Skill Review

- ✓ Strengthens equations, functions, systems, and modeling
- ✓ Supports steady review before tests
- ✓ Good for tutoring, homework, and independent practice

Build the foundation.

Test Practice

- ✓ Full-length practice tests for realistic pacing
- ✓ Detailed answer explanations for every test
- ✓ Useful after students finish topic worksheets

Practice with purpose.

Confidence

- ✓ Turns mistakes into targeted review
- ✓ Helps students see progress over time
- ✓ Keeps preparation organized and calm

Move forward prepared.