Terms, Factors, and Coefficients

Name: _____	Date: _____	Score: _____ / 24

Quick Review

The parts of an expression have names. A **term** is a single number or variable, or numbers and variables multiplied together — terms are separated by $+$ or $-$ signs. In $5x + 3$, the terms are $5x$ and 3. The **coefficient** is the number multiplied by a variable, so in $5x$ the coefficient is 5. The number 3 on its own is called a **constant**. **Factors** are the things multiplied together to make a term: the factors of $5x$ are 5 and x. Knowing these names helps you describe and work with expressions clearly.

◇ **Example:** In the expression $7y + 4$, name the terms, the coefficient, and the constant.
⇒ Let's look at where the $+$ sign splits the expression. That gives us two **terms**: $7y$ and 4. Now look at $7y$ — it is a number multiplied by a variable, and that number, 7, is the **coefficient**. The term 4 has no variable attached, so it is the **constant**. Naming the parts is just careful reading once you know what to look for.

Answer: terms: $7y$ and 4; coefficient: 7; constant: 4

PRACTICE

Identify the requested part of each expression.

1. Coefficient of $8x$ _____
2. Coefficient of $3m$ _____
3. Coefficient of y _____
4. Number of terms in $4x + 9$ _____
5. Number of terms in $6a + 2b - 5$ _____
6. Constant in $7n + 12$ _____
7. Constant in $9 + 5k$ _____
8. Coefficient of $15p$ _____
9. Factors of $6x$ _____
10. Factors of $9t$ _____
11. Number of terms in 10 _____
12. Coefficient of $2.5w$ _____
13. Number of terms in $x + y + z + 4$ _____
14. Constant in $3a + 6b + 11$ _____
15. Coefficient of $\frac{1}{2}n$ _____
16. Variable term in $4 + 7g$ _____
17. Number of terms in $8m - 3n$ _____
18. Coefficient of $100x$ _____
19. Factors of $12ab$ _____
20. Constant in $5x + 2y + 8 - 3$ _____

♦ Word Problems

21. A school store sells pencils for 2 dollars each. The expression $2p + 5$ gives the total cost, where 5 is a membership fee. What is the coefficient of p, and what does it represent? _____

22. The expression $3w + 4w$ describes a project's total hours. How many terms does it have, and what are the coefficients? _____

23. A recipe expression is written as $8c + 3$, where c is the number of cups. Name the constant and explain what it could mean. _____

24. In the expression $6h + 9k - 2$, how many terms are there, and which term is the constant? _____

Answer Keys

1. $\boxed{8}$
2. $\boxed{3}$
3. $\boxed{1}$
4. $\boxed{2}$
5. $\boxed{3}$
6. $\boxed{12}$
7. $\boxed{9}$
8. $\boxed{15}$
9. $\boxed{6 \text{ and } x}$
10. $\boxed{9 \text{ and } t}$
11. $\boxed{1}$
12. $\boxed{2.5}$
13. $\boxed{4}$
14. $\boxed{11}$
15. $\boxed{\frac{1}{2}}$
16. $\boxed{7g}$
17. $\boxed{2}$
18. $\boxed{100}$
19. $\boxed{12,\ a,\ \text{and } b}$
20. $\boxed{5}$
21. $\boxed{\text{Coefficient is } 2\text{; the price per pencil}}$
22. $\boxed{2 \text{ terms; coefficients } 3 \text{ and } 4}$
23. $\boxed{\text{Constant is } 3}$
24. $\boxed{3 \text{ terms; constant is } 2}$

Step-by-Step Explanations

1. The coefficient is the number multiplied by the variable, which is 8.
2. In $3m$, the number 3 multiplies the variable, so the coefficient is 3.
3. When a variable stands alone, its coefficient is 1, since $y = 1y$.
4. The $+$ sign separates two terms: $4x$ and 9.
5. The terms are $6a$, $2b$, and 5 — that is 3 terms.
6. The constant is the term with no variable, which is 12.
7. The number 9 has no variable attached, so it is the constant.
8. The number multiplying p is 15, so that is the coefficient.
9. The factors of $6x$ are the things multiplied together: 6 and x.
10. $9t$ is 9 multiplied by t, so its factors are 9 and t.
11. A single number is one term all by itself.
12. A coefficient can be a decimal: here it is 2.5.
13. Each piece separated by $+$ is a term: x, y, z, and 4.
14. The only term without a variable is 11, the constant.
15. A coefficient can be a fraction — here it is $\frac{1}{2}$.
16. The term $7g$ contains a variable, while 4 is just a constant.
17. The $-$ sign separates two terms: $8m$ and $3n$.
18. The number multiplying x is 100.
19. $12ab$ is 12, a, and b all multiplied together.
20. The constants 8 and 3 combine: $8 - 3 = 5$, so the constant is 5.
21. The coefficient of p is 2, and it tells us each pencil costs 2 dollars. The 5 is the constant membership fee.
22. The $+$ sign separates two terms, $3w$ and $4w$. Their coefficients are 3 and 4.
23. The constant is 3 — the term with no variable. It could be a fixed amount, like 3 extra cups added no matter what.
24. The terms are $6h$, $9k$, and 2, so there are 3 terms. The constant is 2, since it has no variable.

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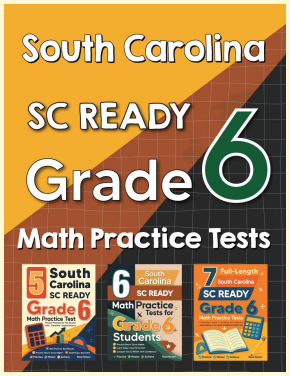

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