**Barron’s Let’s Review Regents – Algebra I**

# Chapter 2: Polynomic Arithmetic

## 2.1 Classifying Monomials, Binomials, and Trinomials

An expression like has two terms while has three terms. Expressions with only one term are called *monomials*. Expressions with two terms are called *binomials*. Expressions with three terms are called *trinomials*. They are all special types of *polynomials*.

### Determining the Type of a Polynomial by the number of terms

Example 1

6x - 2 has two terms and is a *binomial*.

Example 2

5x2 has no plus or minus signs, and is one term. It is a *monomial*.

### The Degree of a Polynomial

When the terms of a polynomial have exponents on the variables, the *degree* of a polynomial is the largest exponent that a variable is raised to. The binomial 2x5 + 3x is degree 5 since the largest exponent is 5. The trinomial 3x2 -7x + 3 is degree 2. A monomial like 7 is degree 0, since it is the equivalent of 7x0.

#### Math Facts

* A polynomial with a degree of 0 is called a *constant polynomial*.
* A polynomial with a degree of 1 is called a *linear polynomial*.
* A polynomial with a degree of 2 is called a *quadratic polynomial*.
* A polynomial with a degree of 3 is called a *cubic polynomial*.

### Check Your Understanding of Section 2.1

1. Multiple Choice
2. Classify the polynomial 5x2 + 3.  
   (2) Binomial
3. Classify the polynomial 7x2 -3 + 2.  
   (3) Trinomial
4. Classify the polynomial 3x3.  
   (1) Monomial
5. Classify the polynomial 3x2y + 5xy2.
6. Classify the polynomial 3x3 + 5x2 + 7x -3.  
   (4) None of the above.
7. Classify the polynomial 3x2 -7x + 5.  
   (3) Trinomial
8. Which of the following is a binomial?  
   (3) 5x2 + 2
9. Which of the following is a trinomial?  
   (3) 2x2 + 5x + 3
10. What is the degree of the polynomial 5x2 + 7x3 -2x?  
    (4) 3
11. Which of the following is a quadratic trinomial?  
    (3) 5x2 -3x + 8
12. Show how you arrived at your answers.
13. An expression for the height of a projectile is   
    -16t2 + 72t + 5. What kind of polynomial is this and what is its degree?  
      
    This has three terms and is a trinomial.  
    The highest exponent is 2. Therefore the degree is 2 and it is called a quadratic polynomial.
14. An equation for the amount of profit a company makes is 5q – 800. What kind of polynomial is that and what is its degree?  
      
    This is a binomial since it has two terms. The degree is one because its largest exponent is 1 (x1) it is called a linear polynomial.
15. Coss out one of the terms in this polynomial to make it into a third-degree trinomial:   
    5x3 + 2x2 -7x + 9.  
      
    5x3 + 2x2 -7x ~~+ 9~~
16. Create a fourth-degree monomial.  
      
    5x4
17. Mark says that the expression 2 + 3 is a binomial since it has two terms. Layla says that it is a monomial since 2 + 3 = 5, and 5 is just one term. Who is correct?  
      
    Technically 2 + 3 is a binomial since it has two terms. 5 is a monomial since it has only one term. Layla is slightly incorrect when disputing it being a binomial.

## 2.2 Multiplying and Dividing Monomials

A monomial, like 5x3, has a coefficient of 5 and a variable part of x3. Just as numbers can be multiplied together, monomials can be multiplied. When multiplying monomials, you have to use the rules for exponents.

What is a coefficient? A coefficient is a number that is multiplied by a variable.

### Multiplying Expressions Involving Exponents

To multiply two monomials, multiply the two coefficients, and multiply the variable parts using the exponent multiplication shortcut of adding the exponents.

**Example 1**

Simplify x2 \* x3 : x5

### Multiplying Monomials That Have Coefficients and Variable Parts

**Example 2**

Simply 3x2 \* 5x3   
(3\*5) \* x2 \* x3 = 15x5

**Example 3**

Simplify 3x4 \* 4x = (3 \* 4) \* x4 \*x = 12x5

**Example 4**

Simplify 2x5 \* 3x4 \* 5x3 = (2\*3\*5) \* x5+4+3 = 30x12

**Example 5**

Simplify 4x2y \* 7xy3 = (4\*7) \* (x2 \* x) \* (y \* y3) =  
28x3y4

**Math Facts**

### Dividing Monomials

To divide two monomials, divide the two coefficients and subtract the exponent of the divisor from the exponent of the dividend.

Example 6

Simplify

### Check Your Understanding of Section 2.2

1. Multiple Choice
2. Multiply 3x3 \* 4x5(3) 12x8
3. Multiply 2x5 \* 5x  
   (1) 10x6
4. Which of the following would not simplify to 12x6?  
   (4) 4x3 \* 3x2
5. Which of the following would not simplify to 24x5?  
   (4) 6x5 \* 4x
6. Multiply x6 \* x.  
   (3) x7
7. Multiply 5 \* 3x5.  
   (2) 15x5
8. If 2x3y = 10x6, which expression is equivalent to y?  
   (2) 5x3
9. Multiply 3x5 \* 2x-2.  
   (3) 6x3
10. If 5x7z = 20x4, which expression is equivalent to z?  
    (4) 4x-3
11. Simplify (4x3)2.  
    (1) 16x6
12. Show how you arrived at your answers.
13. Alexa multiplies 4x2 \* 5x3 and saysthe answer is 20x6 since 4 \* 5 is 20 and 2 \* 3 is 6. Is she correct?  
      
    Coefficients are multiplied and exponents are added for the variable x. The correct answer is **20x5.**
14. What does 12x6 3x2 simplify to?  
    12x6 3x2 = (12 / 3) \* x6-2 = **4x4**
15. Joseph says that x0 = 0 since there are no x’s multiplied together. Sawyer says this is not correct. Who is right?  
      
    Sawyer is correct, because according to the “zero exponent rule”, any variable raised to the zeroth power is equal to 1 (one).
16. What is 5x2  2x-2? Explain your reasoning.  
      
    Coefficients are multiplied and exponents are added when simplifying monomials using the same variable.
17. When multiplying a quadratic monomial by a cubic monomial, what type of polynomial will result?  
      
    A quadratic monomial has degree 2 and a cubic monomial has degree 3. Therefore the multiplication will produce a **polynomial of degree 5**.

## 2.3 Combining Like Terms

Two terms are called *like terms* if they have the same variable part. For example 3x2 and 5x2 are like terms since they both have an x2 as the variable part. 3x2 and 5x3 are not like terms because the x2 is different from the x3. Like terms can be combined with addition or subtraction.

### Combining Two Like Terms

When you add two dogs to three dogs, you get five dogs. Likewise, 2x + 3x = 5x, 2x2 + 3x2 = 5x2, and 2x10 + 3x10 = 5x10. For example 2x + 3y cannot be simplified any further. Event though 2x + 3x2 each have a variable part containing x, they are not like terms since the variable part must be identical.

### If There Is No Coefficient, It Is Really a Coefficient of 1

5x2 + x2 is the same as 5x2 + 1x2.

**Example 1**

4x3 + 6x3 = 10x3

**Example 2**

6x3 – 2x2 = 6x3 – 2x2

**Example 3**

5x2y3 + 4x2y3 = 9x2y3

### Check Your Understanding of Section 2.3

1. *Multiple Choice*
2. Which expression is equivalent to 2x2 + 5x2?  
   (2) 7x2
3. Which expression is equivalent to 3x4 + 5x?  
   (4) The expression cannot be simplified any further.
4. Which expression is equivalent to -5x3 + 2x3?  
   (3) -3x3
5. Which expression is equivalent to   
   8y2 -10y2 + 5y2?  
   (3) 3y2
6. Which expression is equivalent to 5xy2 + 3xy2 – 4x2y?  
   (4) 8xy2 – 4x2y
7. Which expression is *not* equivalent to 7x5?  
   (1) 5x2 + 2x3
8. Which expression is equivalent to 3x2?  
   (2) x2 + 2x2
9. Which expression is *not* equivalent to 7x2y?  
   (4) 2 + 5x2y
10. Which expression cannot be simplified any further?  
    (3) 5x + 3x2
11. Which expression is equivalent to   
    x2 + x2 + x2 + x2?  
    (4) 4x2
12. *Show how you arrived at your answers*.
13. Katherine simplifies the expression 3x2 + 5x2 by noticing that x2 (3 + 5) would become 3x2 + 5x2 if she used the distributive property of multiplication over addition but would become x2(8) if she simplified the parentheses first. Was this a valid way to arrive at the correct answer 8x2? Explain your reasons. Refactoring using the distributive property of multiplication over addition, and then simplifying is a correct way to simplify. Combining Like Terms using addition of coefficients is essentially the same process.
14. Chelsea says the express 3xy2 + 5y2x cannot be simplified any further since the terms are not like terms. Her friend says that it’s possible. Who’s right? Explain your reasoning.  
      
    Her friend is correct. Using the commutative property of multiplication, and using like terms:  
    5y2x = 5xy2  
    3xy2 + 5y2x = 3xy2 + 5xy2 = 8xy2
15. If 5xy2z + a = 7xy2z, what expression in terms of x, y and z must the variable a be equivalent to?  
      
    Using the addition property of equality:  
    5xy2z + a = 7xy2z  
    -5xy2z = -5xy2z  
    a = 2xy2z
16. Combine all like terms in the expression below:  
    x3 + x2y + xy2 + y3 + x2y + xy2 + xy2 + x2y

x3 + y3 + x2y + x2y + x2y + xy2 + xy2 + xy2

x3 + y3 + 3x2y + 3xy2

1. Combine all like terms in the expression:  
   6 – 3i + 2i – i2.  
     
   6 – 3i + 2i – i26 – i – i2

## 2.4 Multiplying Monomials and Polynomials

### Multiplying Monomials by Binomials

To multiply the monomial 2x2 by the binomial 3x + 5, put the 3x + 5 in parentheses and write the problem as 2x2 (3x + 5). Now distribute the 2x2 to each of the terms in the parentheses to get 2x2 3x + 2x2 5. This can be simplified to 6x3 + 10x2.

### Multiplying Monomials by Polynomials with More than Two Terms

The distributive property applies even when there are more than two terms in the parenthesis. 5(1 + 2 + 3) = 5\*1 + 5\*2 + 5\*3 = 5 + 10 + 15 = 30.

To multiply 5x by 2x2 + 7x – 3, multiply the 5x by each of the three terms in the second expression and then simplify the terms if possible.

5x (2x2 + 7x – 3) = 10x3 + 35x2 -15x

### Check Your Understanding of Section 2.4

1. Multiple Choice
2. Multiply 5 by 2x + 3.  
   (2) 10x + 15
3. Multiply -2 by 5x2 -2x + 6.  
   (4) -10x2 + 4x -12
4. Multiply 3x2 + 7x - 5 by 4x2.  
   (3) 12x4 + 28x3 -20x2
5. Simplify 6x (2x + 3).  
   (2) 12x2 + 18x
6. Simplify -2x (3x -5).  
   (4) -6x2 + 10x
7. Simplify -4x (-2x – 7).  
   (4) 8x2 + 28x
8. Simplify 3x (5x2 - 2x + 3)  
   (2) 15x3 – 6x2 + 9x
9. Simplify 4x2y (3xy – 2xy2)  
   (3) 12x3y2 – 8x3y3
10. If a (2x + 5) = 8x2 + 20x, which expression is a equivalent to?  
    (1) 4x
11. Which expression is *not* equivalent to   
    2x3 + 10x2 – 6x?  
    (2) 2x2 (x2 + 5x -6)
12. Show how you arrived at your answers.