

Variable and Constant



The symbol or letter in an expression that represents one or more numbers is called a **variable**.

Any specific number in an expression is called a **constant**. A constant is any symbol that does not change in value.

A **term** is either a number, a variable, or a product or division of a number and variables raised to a specified power.

Terms are separated by plus (+) or minus (−) signs.

It is not necessary to write the \pm sign at the beginning of a term. The number next to a variable is called the **numerical coefficient**.


$$25p + 1$$

Coefficient Constant
 Variable

In this expression:

p is a variable that represents the unknown value.

25 is the numerical coefficient of x.

1 is the constant value term, which has a definite value.

$25p + 1$ has two terms; these are **$25p$** and **1**.



Example 1:
Six times a number increased by 8.
The expression is: $6w + 8$.
 w is the variable
 6 is the numerical coefficient of w
 8 is the constant.
It has two terms ($6w$ and 8).



Example 2:

Twenty is subtracted from seven numbers.

The expression is: $7x - 20$.

x is the variable

7 is the numerical coefficient of x .

-20 is the constant

It has two terms ($7x$ and -20).



Example 3:

Fifty added to the product of five and two.
The expression is: $50 + 5 \times 2$.

There are no variables and numerical coefficients in this example.

The numbers 50, 5, and 2 are the constants, and it has two terms (50, 5×2).