Factoring

About These Problems

Factoring questions usually involve polynomials and solving for the 0 of one. The zero of a polynomial is the value that makes it equal to 0. Factoring helps us solve for it easily. If f(x) = (x-a)*(x+b) we know the zeros are a and –b.

Question. Which of the following is a zero of the following polynomial?

$F(x) = x^2 + 2x + 1$

1. -1
2. -2
3. -3
4. 2
5. 3

Answer. 1: Factoring the equation gives us the following:

F(x) = (x+1)(x+1) From our factoring zero rules we know that -1 is now a 0.