

Lesson 19: Factoring Trinomials with a Leading Coefficient of One

CC attribute: [Beginning and Intermediate Algebra](#) by T. Wallace.



Objective: Factor a trinomial with a leading coefficient of one.

Students will be able to:

- Identify two integer values that add to b and multiply to $a \cdot c = c$ in a trinomial expression with ordered coefficients a, b , and c .
- Multiply binomials to verify the accuracy of a factorization.
- Recognize the relationship between factoring and expanding an expression.

Prerequisite Knowledge:

- Identifying a greatest common factor.
- Factor by grouping.
- Application of the distributive property.
- Multiplication and division of algebraic expressions.

Lesson:

I - Motivating Example(s):

Example: Write the expanded form for the given expression.

$(x + 6)(x - 4)$	Distribute $(x + 6)$ through the second set of parentheses.
$x(x + 6) - 4(x + 6)$	Distribute each monomial through parentheses.
$x^2 + 6x - 4x - 24$	Combine like terms.
$x^2 + 2x - 24$	Our solution.

Notice that if we reverse the last three steps of the previous example, the process resembles grouping. This is because it is grouping! In the second-to-last line, the GCF of the first two terms is x and the GCF of the last two terms is -4 . In this manner, we will factor trinomials by writing them as a polynomial containing four terms, splitting up the middle term, and then factor by grouping. This is demonstrated in the following example, which is the previous one done in reverse.

Example: Factor the given expression.

$x^2 + 2x - 24$	Split middle (linear) term into $+6x - 4x$, since $6 + (-4) = 2$ and $6 \cdot (-4) = -24$.
$x^2 + 6x - 4x - 24$	Grouping: GCF on left is x , on right is -4 .
$x(x + 6) - 4(x + 6)$	$(x + 6)$ appears twice, factor out this GCF.
$(x + 6)(x - 4)$	Our solution.

II - Demo/Discussion Problems:

Factor each of the given trinomial expressions.

1. $x^2 + 9x + 18$

3. $x^2 - 13x + 30$

5. $5x^2 - 40x - 100$

2. $x^2 - 4x + 3$

4. $x^2 + 13x - 30$

6. $x^2 - 9xy + 14y^2$

III - Practice Problems:

Factor each of the given trinomial expressions.

1. $p^2 + 17p + 72$

13. $p^2 + 15p + 54$

25. $x^2 + 4xy - 12y^2$

2. $x^2 + x - 72$

14. $p^2 + 7p - 30$

26. $4x^2 + 52x + 168$

3. $n^2 - 9n + 8$

15. $n^2 - 15n + 56$

27. $5a^2 + 60a + 100$

4. $x^2 + x - 30$

16. $m^2 - 15mn + 50n^2$

28. $5n^2 - 45n + 40$

5. $x^2 - 9x - 10$

17. $u^2 - 8uv + 15v^2$

29. $6a^2 + 24a - 192$

6. $x^2 + 13x + 40$

18. $m^2 - 3mn - 40n^2$

30. $5v^2 + 20v - 25$

7. $b^2 + 12b + 32$

19. $m^2 + 2mn - 8n^2$

31. $6x^2 + 18xy + 12y^2$

8. $b^2 - 17b + 70$

20. $x^2 + 10xy + 16y^2$

32. $5m^2 + 35mn - 90n^2$

9. $x^2 + 3x - 70$

21. $x^2 - 11xy + 18y^2$

33. $6x^2 + 96xy + 378y^2$

10. $x^2 + 3x - 18$

22. $u^2 - 9uv + 14v^2$

34. $6m^2 - 36mn - 162n^2$

11. $n^2 - 8n + 15$

23. $x^2 + xy - 12y^2$

12. $a^2 - 6a - 27$

24. $x^2 + 14xy + 45y^2$