

# The Language of Mathematics

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Mathematics 9  
Polynomials  
The Language of Mathematics

## A. Definitions

1. **algebra:** a branch of mathematics that uses symbols to represent unknown numbers or quantities.  $(3x^2y)(2xy)$   $A = lw$

2. **variable:** a letter that represents an unknown number.

$x, y, m, n, a, b, c$ . ← lower case.

3. **coefficient:** a number that comes before a variable and that multiplies the variable.

$\text{coefficient.} \rightarrow 3x$

4. **constant:** a number by itself, or the known value in a algebra expression.

$4$

5. **term:** a number and variable combined or a constant value.

$3x$ ,  $4$

6. **expression:** algebra terms that are joined by addition or subtraction.

$3x + 4$ ,  $x^2 + 4x - 5$

7. **monomial:** an algebra expression with one term.

$3x$

8. **binomial:** an algebra expression with two terms.

$3x + 4$

9. **trinomial:** an algebra expression with three terms.

$x^2 + 4x - 5$

10. **polynomial:** an algebra expression made up of many terms.

$x^5 + 3x^4 - 2x^3 + 4x^2 - 7$

11. **degree of a polynomial:** calculate the sum of the exponents on each term of the polynomial. The degree of the polynomial will be one with the highest total.

$$4x^2y^3 + 3xy^2 + 2x^2y^4$$

4<sup>th</sup> degree

## B. Polynomials and their Degrees

- 1) For each of the following identify the number of terms and whether the expression is a monomial, binomial, trinomial or polynomial. Then determine the degree of the polynomial.

a)  $\underline{4} \overset{2}{xy} + \underline{3}^0$   
 2 terms  
 binomial  
 2nd degree

b)  $\overset{3}{5}x^2y - \overset{2}{6}x^2 + \overset{2}{2}xy - \overset{0}{7}$   
 4 terms  
 polynomial  
 3rd degree

c) 8  
 1 term  
 monomial.  
 0 degree

- 2) Write the expression represented by each set of algebra tiles. Shaded tiles are positive and white tiles are negative.

a)

$$\boxed{\square} = x^2$$

$$\boxed{\square} = x$$

$$\boxed{\square} = \text{constant}$$

$$3x^2 - 4$$

b)

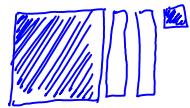
$$2x^2 + 3$$

c)

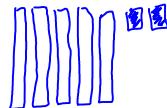
$$-x^2 + 2x - 1$$

- 3) Sketch a model that represents the following polynomials.

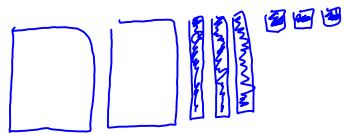
a)  $x^2 - 2x + 1$



b)  $-5x + 2$



c)  $-2x^2 + 3x + 3$



- 4) Write an algebraic expression to represent the following:

a) difference of  $5x^2$  and 3

$$5x^2 - 3$$

b) product of 8 and  $t$

$$8t$$

c) sum of  $3m$  and 7

$$3m + 7$$

Assignment: 5.1 The Language of Mathematics Assignment

# 5.1 The Language of Mathematics

*MathLinks 9, pages 174–182*

## Key Ideas Review

Choose from the following terms to complete the statements in #1 to 3.

binomial  
symbols

exponents  
trinomial

highest  
variables

monomial

polynomial

1. Algebra uses \_\_\_\_\_, often letters, to represent unknown numbers or quantities. These unknown values are called \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is made up of terms. Some of these expressions have special names, depending on the number of terms they have.
  - A \_\_\_\_\_ has one term.
  - A \_\_\_\_\_ has two terms.
  - A \_\_\_\_\_ has three terms.
3. Each algebraic term has a degree, which you can find by adding the \_\_\_\_\_ of the variables in the term. A polynomial has the same degree as its \_\_\_\_\_-degree term.

## Check Your Understanding

4. For each expression, identify the number of terms and state whether it is a monomial, binomial, trinomial, or polynomial.
  - a)  $2x - 5$
  - b)  $10$
  - c)  $3z^2 - 6z + 7$
  - d)  $b^2 - ab - 4d + e^2$
5. For each expression, state the number of terms and the expression's degree.
  - a)  $ef + gh$
  - b)  $g^2 - 3g$
  - c)  $10$
  - d)  $3s^2t - 2$

6. Refer to the following polynomials to answer the questions below.

$$4c^2 - 3c + 2$$

$$2f - 4$$

$$5p^2 - r$$

$$4ab$$

$$-12$$

$$g + h + j$$

8. Sketch a model that represents the polynomial.

a)  $x^2 + 3x - 2$

b)  $-x^2 - 2x + 1$

Which of the above polynomials

- a) are trinomials?

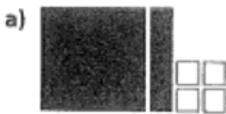
- b) have a degree of 2?

- c) have a degree of 0?

- d) are monomials?

- e) have a coefficient of 4?

7. Write the expression represented by each set of algebra tiles. Shaded tiles are positive and white tiles are negative.



9. Write an algebraic expression for each of the following:

- a) the sum of 7 and  $x^2$

- b) the difference of  $3x$  and 9

- c) the product of  $x$  and 4

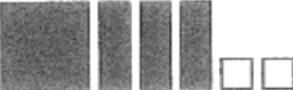
10. Use the given variables to write each statement as an algebraic expression.

- a) If  $n$  is a number, the product of the number and 5

- b) If  $w$  is the width of a rectangle and its length is 5 cm more than its width, the area of rectangle

- c) If  $x$  is the number of kilometres, the cost of renting a car, in dollars, if the charge is \$40 plus \$0.80 per kilometre

## 5.1 The Language of Mathematics

1. symbols, variables
2. polynomial, monomial, binomial, trinomial
3. exponents, highest
4. a) 2; binomial b) 1; monomial c) 3; trinomial  
d) 4; polynomial
5. a) 2; 2 b) 2; 2 c) 1; 0 d) 2; 3
6. a)  $4c^2 - 3c + 2$ ,  $g + h + j$   
b)  $4c^2 - 3c + 2$ ,  $5p^2 - r$ ,  $4ab$  c) -12  
d)  $4ab$ , -12 e)  $4c^2 - 3c + 2$ ,  $4ab$
7. a)  $x^2 + x - 4$  b)  $-2x^2 - 3$  c)  $x^2 - 3x$
8. a)  
  
b)  

9. a)  $x^2 + 7$  b)  $3x - 9$  c)  $4x$
10. a)  $5n$  b)  $w(w + 5)$  or  $w^2 + 5w$  c)  $0.8x + 40$