

If something is *quadratic*, it contains a variable squared, but not raised to any higher power.

For instance:

- a quadratic equation or expression in x contains an x^2 term but not x^3
- if there is more than one variable, quadratic includes the possibility that they are multiplied together in pairs but not in threes, for example $x^2 + 2y$, $xy - 3$ and $x^2 + y^2 + 3xy - y + 1$ are all quadratic, but $x + y$, x^2y and $x^3 - y^2$ are not (the first is linear, the other two are cubic).