

Proving Polynomial Identities



A **Polynomial** is an algebraic expression containing variables and constants. It contains multiple terms.

Examples

$$3z^2 - 4z + 6 \quad 6x - 2 \quad 8y^3 - 5y^2 + 5x + 6$$

Proving Identity $(a+b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$

EXAMPLES

FIND THE SQUARE: $(6X+5Y)^2$

SUPPOSE: $A=6X$ AND $B=5Y$

NOW, USING $(A+B)^2 = A^2 + 2AB + B^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SO, } (6X+5Y)^2 &= (6X)^2 + 2(6X)(5Y) + (5Y)^2 \\ &= (6^2 \cdot X^2) + 60XY + (5^2 \cdot Y^2) \quad \text{USING } (AB)^2 = A^2 \cdot B^2 \\ &= 36X^2 + 60XY + 25Y^2 \end{aligned}$$

Proving Identity $(a-b)^2 = a^2 - 2ab + b^2$

EXAMPLES

FIND THE SQUARE: $\left(\frac{x}{3} - \frac{y}{4}\right)^2$

SUPPOSE: $A=\frac{x}{3}$ AND $B=\frac{y}{4}$

NOW, USING $(A-B)^2 = A^2 - 2AB + B^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SO, } \left(\frac{x}{3} - \frac{y}{4}\right)^2 &= \left(\frac{x}{3}\right)^2 - 2\left(\frac{x}{3}\right)\left(\frac{y}{4}\right) + \left(\frac{y}{4}\right)^2 \\ &= \left(\frac{x^2}{3^2}\right) - \frac{2}{12} \cdot X \cdot Y + \left(\frac{y^2}{4^2}\right) \quad \text{USING } (AB)^2 = A^2 \cdot B^2 \\ &= \frac{x^2}{9} - \frac{xy}{6} + \frac{y^2}{16} \end{aligned}$$

Meets: Common Core Standard High School – HSA-APR.C.4