

Special Trinomial Product: Perfect Square of a Binomial

Special Product Investigation: $(a + b)^2$ “Square of a Sum”

Square of Binomial	x^2 -Term	x - Term	Constant
$(x + 4)^2 = (x + 4)(x + 4)$	x^2	$8x$	16
$= x^2 + 4x + 4x + 16$	$(x)(x)$	$(2)(x)(4)$	$(4)(4)$
$= x^2 + 8x + 16$	x^2	$(2)(x)(4)$	16
$(x + 7)^2 =$			
$(2x + 1)^2 =$			
$(3x + 2)^2 =$			

Conclusion:

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

Practice: Expand and simplify the following expressions with the Special Product Rules.

1. (a) $(x + 3)^2$

(b) $(x + 6)^2$

(c) $(2n + 4)^2$

(d) $(3p + q)^2$

Answers: 1. (a) $a = x, b = 3, x^2 + (2)(x)(3) + 3^2 = x^2 + 6x + 9$, (b) $a = x, b = 6, x^2 + (2)(x)(6) + 6^2 = x^2 + 12x + 36$,
 (c) $a = 2n, b = 4, (2n)^2 + (2)(2n)(4) + 4^2 = 4n^2 + 16n + 16$
 (d) $a = 3p, b = q, (3p)^2 + (2)(3p)(q) + q^2 = 9p^2 + 6pq + p^2$

Special Product Investigation: $(a - b)^2$ “Square of a Difference”

Square of Binomial	x^2 -Term	x - Term	Constant
$(x - 4)^2 = (x - 4)(x - 4)$ $= x^2 - 4x - 4x + 16$ $= x^2 - 8x + 16$	x^2	$-8x$	16
	$(x)(x)$	$(2)(x)(-4)$	$(-4)(-4)$
	x^2	$-(2)(x)(4)$	16
$(x - 7)^2 =$			
$(2x - 1)^2 =$			
$(3x - 2)^2 =$			

Conclusion:

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

Practice: Expand and simplify the following expressions with the Special Product Rules.

2. (a) $(y - 5)^2$

(b) $(x - 9)^2$

(c) $(3m - 7)^2$

(d) $(x - 4y)^2$

Answers: 2. (a) $a = y, b = 5, y^2 - (2)(y)(5) + 5^2 = y^2 - 10y + 25$, (b) $a = x, b = 9, x^2 - (2)(x)(9) + 9^2 = x^2 - 18x + 81$,
 (c) $a = 3m, b = 7, (3m)^2 - (2)(3m)(7) + 7^2 = 9m^2 - 42m + 49$
 (d) $a = x, b = 4y, x^2 - (2)(x)(4y) + (4y)^2 = x^2 - 8xy + 16y^2$

Special Products Investigation: $(a + b)(a - b)$ “Product of a Sum and a Difference”

Square of Binomial	x^2 -Term	x - Term	Constant
$(x + 4)(x - 4)$ $= x^2 - 4x + 4x - 16$ $= x^2 - 16$	x^2	0	-16
	$(x)(x)$	$-4x + 4x$	$(4)(-4)$
	x^2	0	-16
$(x + 7)(x - 7)$			
$(2x + 1)(2x - 1)$			
$(3x + 2)(3x - 2)$			

Conclusion:

$(a + b)(a - b) = a^2 - b^2$

Practice: Expand and simplify the following expressions with the Special Product Rules.

3. (a) $(4 + d)(4 - d)$

(c) $(x + 8)(x - 8)$

(c) $(3b - 7)(3b + 7)$

(d) $(2m - n)(2m + n)$

Answers: 3. (a) $a = 4, b = d, 4^2 - d^2 = 16 - d^2$, (b) $a = x, b = 8, x^2 - 8^2 = x^2 - 64$,
 (c) $a = 3b, b = 7, (3b)^2 - 7^2 = 9b^2 - 49$, (d) $a = 2m, b = n, (2m)^2 - n^2 = 4m^2 - n^2$