

Combining Like Terms

Vocabulary

Like Terms

Like terms are terms that have the same variable(s). Like terms can be combined or simplified.

Combining Like Terms

Combining like terms involves adding or subtracting terms that have the same variable(s).

Coefficient

The coefficient of a term is the numerical factor that appears in front of the variable.

Example

Simplify the expression by combining like terms:

$$5m + 3m - 2m$$

Add the coefficients of the like terms together.

$$\begin{aligned} &5\mathbf{m} + 3\mathbf{m} - 2\mathbf{m} \\ &= (5 + 3 - 2)\mathbf{m} \\ &= 6\mathbf{m} \end{aligned}$$

The terms have the same variable "m," which means they are like terms and can be combined.

Practice

1. $3x + 2x$

2. $4y + 2y + 5y$

3. $7a + 3a - 2a$

4. $2b - 5b + 8b$

5. $6c + 9c$

6. $10p - 6p + 3p$