

**Common Factor**

Remove a common factor from each of the following

*\* You ALWAYS try common factor first*

a)  $5a^2 - 10a^3$       b)  $15m^2n - 18mn^2$

$5 \cdot \underline{a \cdot a} - 10 \underline{a \cdot a \cdot a}$

$\underline{5a^2} (1 - 2a)$

$3mn(5m - 6n)$

c)  $12a^2 - 9a + 3$

$3(4a^2 - 3a + 1)$

The first thing you try to do in **any** factoring question is to try to remove a common factor

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**Factor by Grouping**

$2x(x - 1) - 5(x - 1)$

$(x - 1)(2x - 5)$

$1x - 2x = -1x$

$(k^2 + 5k + 3) - 2(k^2 + 5k + 3)$

$(k^2 + 5k + 3)(1 - 2)$

$(k^2 + 5k + 3)(-1)$

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**Factoring Simple Trinomials**

**Trinomial:** A polynomial containing 3 terms

Ex:  $x^2 + 7x + 12$

Trinomials are usually in the form  $ax^2 + bx + c$ . When we try to factor a polynomial we use the following method.

We look for 2 numbers that multiply to  $a \cdot c$   
 These same numbers must add to  $b$

We use the "**box**" method to help us with this

$ax^2 + bx + c$   
 $x^2 + 7x + 12$

|   |
|---|
| 4 |
| 3 |

$+6$   
 $+7$

$a \cdot c$   
 $1 \times 12$  (12)

(400)

$1 \times 400$   
 $2 \times 200$   
 $4 \times 100$   
 $5 \times 80$

Complete handout on "The box"

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |

$\times 18$

$+3$

|    |
|----|
| 6  |
| -2 |

$\times -12$

$+4$

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Factor  $x^2 + 7x + 10$

|   |
|---|
| 5 |
| 2 |

$\times 10$

|   |
|---|
| 5 |
| 1 |

|   |
|---|
| 2 |
| 1 |

$+7$

\* When we factor a trinomial it simplifies into 2 binomials

$(x + 5) (x + 2)$

$p^2 + 2p - 3$

|    |
|----|
| 3  |
| -1 |

$\times -3$

|   |
|---|
| 3 |
| 1 |

|    |
|----|
| -1 |
| 1  |

$+2$

$(1p + 3) (1p - 1)$

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Factor:  $5y^2 - 40y + 60$ 

$$5(y^2 - 8y + 12)$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline -6 \\ \hline -2 \\ \hline -8 \\ \hline \end{array} \times 12 \quad \frac{-6}{1} \quad \frac{-2}{1}$$

$$5 \cdot (y-6) \cdot (y-2)$$

 $2m^3 - 18m^2 - 20m$ 

$$2m(m^2 - 9m - 10)$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline -10 \\ \hline +1 \\ \hline -9 \\ \hline \end{array} \times -10 \quad \frac{-10}{1} \quad \frac{1}{1}$$

$$2m(m-10)(m+1)$$

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 $x^4 + 7x^2 + 10$ 

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline 2 \\ \hline 5 \\ \hline +7 \\ \hline \end{array} \times 10 \quad \frac{2}{1} \quad \frac{5}{1}$$

$$(x^2 + 2)(x^2 + 5)$$

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**Assignment:**

**Pg. 347**

**2, 6, 13 and 16 odds**

**Pg. 365**

**5-7, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20 all odds**

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