

Relevant Vocabulary:

EQUIVALENT POLYNOMIAL EXPRESSIONS: Two polynomial expressions in one variable are equivalent if, whenever a number is substituted into all instances of the variable symbol in both expressions, the numerical expressions created are equal.

POLYNOMIAL IDENTITY: A polynomial identity is a statement that two polynomial expressions are always equivalent. For example, $(x + 3)^2 = x^2 + 6x + 9$ for any real number x is a polynomial identity.

COEFFICIENT OF A MONOMIAL: The coefficient of a monomial is the value of the numerical expression found by substituting the number 1 into all the variable symbols in the monomial. The coefficient of $3x^2$ is 3, and the coefficient of the monomial $(3x)^2$ is 9.

TERMS OF A POLYNOMIAL: When a polynomial is expressed as a monomial or a sum of monomials, each monomial in the sum is called a term of the polynomial.

LIKE TERMS OF A POLYNOMIAL: Two terms of a polynomial that have the same variable symbols each raised to the same power are called like terms.

STANDARD FORM OF A POLYNOMIAL IN ONE VARIABLE: A polynomial expression with one variable symbol, x , is in standard form if it is expressed as $a_nx^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \dots + a_2x^2 + a_1x + a_0$, where n is a non-negative integer, and $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$ are constant coefficients with $a_n \neq 0$.

The degree of the polynomial in standard form is the highest degree of the terms in the polynomial, namely n . The term a_nx^n is called the leading term and a_n (thought of as a specific number) is called the leading coefficient. The constant term is the value of the numerical expression found by substituting 0 into all the variable symbols of the polynomial, namely a_0 .

Questions:

1. What does it mean for two Polynomial Expressions to be EQUIVALENT? Give an example.
2. How many terms are in the expression $x^2 + 6x + 9$?
3. Are $4x^2$ and $2x^4$ like terms? Why or why not?
4. Rewrite $2x + 3x^4 - 5x^2 + 7$ in Standard Form.

5. Use an area model to multiply and combine like terms.

$$(x^2 - 4x + 4)(x + 3)$$

- Is the answer a polynomial? Explain how you know.

$$(11 - 15x - 7x^2)(25 - 16x^2)$$

- Without multiplying, what is the degree of the polynomial?

$$(3m^3 + m^2 - 2m - 5)(m^2 - 5m - 6)$$

- Without multiplying, what is the leading coefficient for the polynomial?

$$(x^2 - 3x + 9)(x^2 + 3x + 9)$$

- Without multiplying, what is the constant term for the polynomial?

6. If you add one polynomial to another polynomial, will your sum also be a polynomial? What if you subtract two polynomials, will the difference be a polynomial? Give examples, one ADDITION and one SUBTRACTION, to show your thinking.

7. If you multiply one polynomial to another polynomial, will your product also be a polynomial? Give two examples to show your thinking.