

term

- one of the numbers in a sequence, e.g. 1, 3, 5, 7, ...
- one of the numbers in a series, e.g. 2 + 4 + 6 + 8 ...
- one part of an algebraic expression which may be a number, a variable or a product of both.

EXAMPLES: Terms in algebraic expressions.

Expression	Terms
$2a + b^2$	$2a$ and b^2
$4x^3 + 3xz - 5$	$4x^3$, $3xz$ and 5
$9x^3 + 5x^3 + x + 16$	$9x^3$, $5x^3$, x and 16

Some types of terms in algebraic expressions.

variable term

- a term that contains a variable.

constant term

- a term that has a fixed value and does not contain a variable.

like terms or similar terms

- terms that are exactly alike or the same except for their numerical coefficients.

Like terms are either constants (which are positive or negative numbers with no variables) or variable terms, in which the variables have the same exponents. To combine like terms, add or subtract their coefficients (the number in front of the variable).

Match the terms that can be combined.

$$3x^2y \quad -2xy^4$$

$$-2x^4y \quad 12x^3y^2$$

$$12xy \quad -x^2y$$

$$7xy^4 \quad 3x^2y^2$$

$$-8x^3y^2 \quad 7xy^3$$

$$4x^2y^2 \quad -8x^4y$$

$$-xy^3 \quad 4xy$$