

Math 9 – Unit 2: Algebra One

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Lesson 2.2: Adding and Subtracting Polynomials

Date: Sep 22, 2025**Learning Goal:** We are learning to add and subtract polynomials.

Now that we know what terms, coefficients, variables, and constants are, we can start to work on the arithmetic of algebra. Today we will add and subtract polynomials. Essentially, we are just collecting like terms.

Examples: Add the polynomials, putting the answer in descending order.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } & (x^3 + 7x - 6) + (2x^3 - 5x - 2) \\ & = 3x^3 + 2x - 8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } & (3p^2 + 4 + 3p) + (3p^2 - 8p + 7) + (2p^2 - 4) \\ & = 8p^2 - 5p + 7 \end{aligned}$$

$$5 - 3 = 5 + (-3)$$

Examples: Subtract the polynomials, putting the answer in descending order.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } & (m^4 + 7m^2 - 5) - (6m^4 - 4m^2 + 3) \\ & = (m^4 + 7m^2 - 5) + (-6m^4 + 4m^2 - 3) \\ & = -5m^4 + 11m^2 - 8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } & (x^2 - 2x^3) - (6x^2 - 4x^4 + 5x^3) \\ & = (x^2 - 2x^3) + (-6x^2 + 4x^4 - 5x^3) \\ & = 4x^4 - 7x^3 - 5x^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } & (7x^3 + 7) - (7x^2 + 8x^3 + 4x^4) - (3x^4 + 8) \\ & = (7x^3 + 7) + (-7x^2 - 8x^3 - 4x^4) + (-3x^4 - 8) \\ & = -7x^4 - x^3 - 7x^2 - 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d) } & (8u^3v^4 + 2v^4) - (6v^4 + 7u^2v^4 - 3u^3v^4) + (8u^2v^4 - 8u^3v^4) \\ & = 8u^3v^4 + 2v^4 - 6v^4 - 7u^2v^4 + 3u^3v^4 + 8u^2v^4 - 8u^3v^4 \\ & = 3u^3v^4 - 4v^4 + u^2v^4 \end{aligned}$$

Note: If you were to be asked to subtract 6 from 9, how would you answer? Essentially, you are doing $9 - 6$. The same holds true with polynomials:

Example: Subtract $(4x^2 + 5x - 3)$ from $(9x^2 + 3x - 7)$ -- this is not an expression. Turn it into an expression by writing $(2^{\text{nd}} \text{ polynomial}) - (1^{\text{st}} \text{ polynomial})$

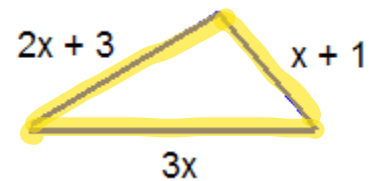
$$(9x^2 + 3x - 7) - (4x^2 + 5x - 3)$$

$$= 5x^2 - 2x - 4$$

Example: a) Given the following triangle, determine an expression for the perimeter.

$$P = (2x + 3) + (x + 1) + (3x)$$

$$P = 6x + 4$$



b) Let $x = 6\text{cm}$, determine the perimeter of the triangle.

$$P = 6(6\text{cm}) + 4$$

$$= 36 + 4$$

$$P = 40\text{cm}$$

Success Criteria:

- I can add/subtract polynomials by grouping like terms
- I can distribute the negative into a polynomial
- I can arrange polynomials in descending order