

Algebra – collecting like terms

Work these out like ordinary additions and subtractions

Single variable

$$3a + 2a = 5a$$

$$8b - 5b = 3b$$

Remember 1h is the same as h

$$4h - h = 3h$$

$$5h + h = 6h$$

$$7p - 7p = 0$$

Remember you should write 0 not 0p

More than one variable

Simplify
 $6a - 4b - 2a + 3b + a$

$$\begin{aligned} & (6a) - 4b - 2a + 3b + a \\ &= 6a - 2a + a - 4b + 3b \\ &= 5a - b \end{aligned}$$

Rearrange the terms
Collect like terms together

5a - b

The x^2 terms are the only like terms

Simplify
 $x + y + x^2 + 2x^2$

$$\begin{aligned} & x + y + x^2 + 2x^2 \\ &= x + y + 3x^2 \end{aligned}$$

X + y + 3x²

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