

How to Combine Like Terms

To Combine Like Terms, we add together items that are the same to make a simplified shorter list of items.

Consider the following family take-away order:



We can write this in Algebra as:

If we combine like items, we get a simplified list as follows:



Subtracting Like Terms

We can also Subtract Like Terms

Suppose that we have bought 5 apples and 6 bananas, but we eat two bananas before putting our fruit into the bowl.



The Algebra is:

Like Terms: terms with the same _____ and _____.

Ex: $6x^3$ and _____

$4z$ and _____

-9 and _____

Combining Like Terms Steps

Step 1: _____ your terms.

- Draw _____ around or _____ your like terms.

Step 2: Combine the _____ of the like terms. Keep the

_____ and _____ the same.

Ex 1: $-12y^2 + 4y - 19 + y^2 + 4$

Ex 2: $-4t^2 + (-tp) + (-5) + (-2p) + 13 + 7t^2 - 5tp$