What is the definition of like terms in math

Decoding the Language of Math: Understanding Like Terms

Mathematics, often perceived as a daunting language, relies on a fundamental building block: like terms. These seemingly simple concepts are crucial for mastering algebraic expressions and equations, forming the foundation for more complex mathematical operations. This delves into the precise definition of like terms, exploring their importance in different mathematical contexts and demonstrating their practical applications.

Understanding the Core Concept: What are Like Terms?

Like terms in mathematics are terms that contain the same variables raised to the same powers. This seemingly straightforward definition holds the key to simplifying algebraic expressions. Crucially, the numerical coefficients (the numbers in front of the variables) can differ. This distinction is often the source of confusion, but it's vital to grasp. For example: • **3x** and -7x are like terms because they both contain the variable 'x' raised to the power of 1. • $4y^2$ and $2y^2$ are like terms because they both contain the variable 'y' raised to the power of 2. • *5ab* and *-10ab* are like terms because they both contain the variables 'a' and 'b' raised to the power of 1. However, terms like *2x* and **$2x^2$** are *not* like terms, despite having the same numerical coefficient. The power to which the variable 'x' is raised is

different.

Differentiating Like Terms from Unlike Terms

The opposite of like terms are unlike terms. These terms contain different variables or the same variables raised to different powers. • *5x* and **3y** are unlike terms. • **$2a^2b$** and $-7ab^2$ are unlike terms, as the exponents for the variables differ. The inability to combine unlike terms is a significant hurdle to overcome in more advanced mathematical problems.

Combining Like Terms: The Simplification Process

Combining like terms is a fundamental algebraic operation that simplifies expressions. The process involves adding or subtracting the numerical coefficients while retaining the same variable and exponent. **Example:** Simplify the expression: $3x + 5x - 2x + 7$ 1. Identify the like terms: **3x, 5x, -2x** 2. Combine the coefficients: 3 + 5 - 2 = 6 3. Retain the variable and exponent: $6x$ 4. The constant term **7** remains unchanged. 5. The simplified expression is: **6x + 7** This technique significantly reduces the complexity of expressions, making them more manageable and easily interpretable.

Real-World Applications of Like Terms

The concepts of like terms transcend the realm of abstract mathematics. Understanding them unlocks the ability to solve real-world problems involving algebraic expressions. • Physics: Calculating forces, velocities, or momentum often requires manipulating algebraic equations that involve like terms. • Finance: Building financial models or analysing investment returns often necessitate simplifying algebraic expressions involving like terms to represent values more concisely. • **Engineering:** Designing

structures, calculating material strength, and optimizing performance involve intricate calculations often using algebraic expressions with like terms.

Advanced Applications: Solving Equations and Inequalities

The concept of combining like terms is essential in solving equations and inequalities. **Example:** Solve the equation: **2x + 5 = 11** 1. **Isolate the variable term by subtracting 5 from both sides:** 2x = 6 2. **Divide both sides by the coefficient of the variable:** x = 3 In this process, combining like terms facilitates isolating the variable, the cornerstone of finding a solution to the equation. The same principle is applied when dealing with inequalities.

Visualizing Like Terms (Illustrative Examples)

While not strictly a chart or table, a visual representation aids understanding. Imagine a set of boxes, each labeled with a variable and its exponent. Boxes labeled 'x' can be combined with other 'x' boxes, but not with boxes labeled 'x²' or 'y'.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

One prevalent error is combining unlike terms. Remember, you can only add or subtract terms with the same variable and exponent. Carefully inspecting the components of each term is vital to avoid errors.

Conclusion: The Power of Simplification

Understanding like terms represents a critical step in mastering algebra. This foundational concept empowers students to simplify expressions, solve equations, and tackle more complex mathematical problems in a variety of fields. Like terms are not merely a mathematical tool; they are a key to unlocking the language of mathematics and its powerful applications in the real world.

Expert FAQs

1. **Q: Can coefficients be negative? A:** Absolutely. Negative coefficients are an integral part of algebraic expressions, and combining like terms with negative coefficients follows the same principles. 2. **Q: What if the variables have different letters? A:** If the variables in the terms are different, they are considered unlike terms and cannot be combined. 3. **Q: When do like terms become crucial in solving equations? A:** When you need to isolate a variable to find its value, combining like terms is often the first step, simplifying the equation into a form easier to solve. 4. Q: How do I practice combining like terms efficiently? **A:** Practice with a variety of problems involving different coefficients and variables. Start with simple expressions and gradually increase complexity. 5. Q: Why is this crucial for students? **A:** Mastering like terms is the gateway to handling more advanced algebraic operations and ultimately building strong foundations for higher-level mathematical concepts, as well as applying it to practical situations in various fields of study.

Understanding Like Terms in Math:

The Foundation of Algebraic Simplification

Ever found yourself staring at a string of numbers and letters in a math problem and feeling a bit overwhelmed? You're not alone! The world of algebra can seem daunting at first, but a big part of mastering it comes down to understanding a fundamental concept: **like terms**. Think of them as the building blocks that allow us to simplify complex expressions and solve equations more efficiently. So, what exactly are like terms in math? In essence, they are terms that have the same **variables** raised to the same **powers**. It’s like having a collection of apples and a collection of oranges – you can easily count how many apples you have and how many oranges you have, but you can’t add an apple directly to an orange to get a new fruit. Similarly, like terms can be combined, while unlike terms must remain separate. This article will dive deep into the definition of like terms, explore why they are so important, and provide plenty of examples to solidify your understanding. We'll cover everything from identifying like terms in simple expressions to their role in solving more intricate algebraic puzzles.

What's a "Term" in the First Place?

Before we can define like terms, it's crucial to understand what a "term" is in algebra. A term is a single mathematical expression. It can be a: * **Constant:** Just a plain number, like 5, -12, or 3.14. * **Variable:** A letter representing an unknown value, like x, y, or a. * **Product of constants and variables:** This is where things get interesting. For example, 3x, -7y², 5ab, or even just a single variable like 'x'. Terms are usually separated by addition (+) or subtraction (-) signs. For instance, in the expression 5x + 3y - 7, the terms are 5x, 3y, and -7. Each of these is a distinct unit within the larger expression.

Defining Like Terms: The Key to Combining

Now, let's get to the heart of the matter. **Like terms** are terms that share the exact same variable(s) and the same exponent(s) on those variables. The order of the variables doesn't matter, and the coefficients (the numbers in front of the variables) can be different. Let's break this down further: * **Same Variables:** This is non-negotiable. If one term has 'x' and another has 'y', they are not like terms. If one has 'x' and another has 'x²', they are also not like terms. * **Same Exponents:** The power to which a variable is raised must be identical. For example, x and x² are not like terms because the exponents (1 and 2, respectively) are different. * **Order of Variables Doesn't Matter:** Because multiplication is commutative (meaning a * b = b * a), terms like 3xy and 5yx are considered like terms. Both have one 'x' and one 'y'.

Identifying Like Terms: Practice Makes Perfect

Let's look at some examples to get a feel for identifying like terms: **Example 1:** Consider the expression: `4x + 7y - 2x + 5y` * The terms are: `4x`, `7y`, `-2x`, and `5y`. * Let's examine the variables: * `4x` has the variable 'x' to the power of 1. * `7y` has the variable 'y' to the power of 1. * `-2x` has the variable 'x' to the power of 1. * `5y` has the variable 'y' to the power of 1. * Now, let's group the like terms: * Terms with 'x': `4x` and `-2x` are like terms. * Terms with 'y': `7y` and `5y` are like terms. * The expression can be simplified by combining these like terms: `(4x - 2x) + (7y + 5y) = 2x + 12y`. **Example 2:** What about this expression: `3a² + 5b - 9a² + 2b³` * The terms are: `3a²`, `5b`, `-9a²`, and `2b³`. * Let's look at the variables and their exponents: * `3a²` has 'a' to the power of 2. * `5b` has 'b' to the power of 1. * `-9a²` has 'a' to the power of 2. * `2b³` has 'b' to the power of 3. * Grouping the like terms: * Terms with 'a²': `3a²` and `-9a²` are like terms. * Terms with 'b': `5b` is not a like term with `2b³` because the

exponents are different (1 vs. 3). * So, the only like terms we can combine here are `3a²` and `-9a²`. The simplified expression would be: `(3a² - 9a²) + 5b + 2b³ = -6a² + 5b + 2b³`. Notice that `5b` and `2b³` remain separate. **Example 3:** Consider an expression with multiple variables: `6xy + 2x²y - 4xy + 3x²y` * The terms are: `6xy`, `2x²y`, `-4xy`, `3x²y`. * Let's analyze: * `6xy` has 'x' to the power of 1 and 'y' to the power of 1. * `2x²y` has 'x' to the power of 2 and 'y' to the power of 1. * `-4xy` has 'x' to the power of 1 and 'y' to the power of 1. * `3x²y` has 'x' to the power of 2 and 'y' to the power of 1. * Identifying like terms: * Terms with 'xy' (both to the power of 1): `6xy` and `-4xy` are like terms. * Terms with 'x²y' (x to the power of 2, y to the power of 1): `2x²y` and `3x²y` are like terms. * Combining like terms: `(6xy - 4xy) + (2x²y + 3x²y) = 2xy + 5x²y`.

What About Constants?

Constants are a special case. A constant term (like 5 or -10) is considered "like" any other constant term. For example, in the expression `3x + 5 + 2x - 8`, the like terms are `3x` and `2x`, and the like terms are also `5` and `-8`. Combining them would give `5x - 3`.

Why are Like Terms So Important? The Power of Simplification

The concept of like terms is not just an abstract rule; it’s a powerful tool for simplifying algebraic expressions. When you simplify an expression by combining like terms, you make it: * **Easier to understand:** A long, complex expression can often be reduced to a much shorter, more manageable one. * **Easier to solve:** When you encounter equations, simplifying them by combining like terms is often the first step towards finding the solution for the unknown variable. * **Less prone to errors:** Fewer terms and simpler structures mean a lower chance of making calculation mistakes. Imagine you're trying to calculate the total cost of buying 5 apples and 3 oranges, and then returning 2 apples. You can

represent this as `5a + 3o - 2a`. If you don't know how to combine the 'a' terms, you might get stuck. But by recognizing that `5a` and `-2a` are like terms, you can combine them to get `3a + 3o`, making it clear you have 3 apples and 3 oranges left.

Combining Like Terms: The "How-To"

Once you've identified like terms, combining them is straightforward. You simply add or subtract their coefficients. The variable part stays the same. * **Addition:** If you have `ax + bx`, the sum is `(a+b)x`. * **Subtraction:** If you have `ax - bx`, the difference is `(a-b)x`. Remember to pay close attention to the signs of the coefficients.

Special Cases and Considerations

* **Terms with no visible coefficient:** If you see just a variable like 'x', it's understood to have a coefficient of 1 (so it's 1x). Similarly, '-y' is -1y. * **Terms with different variable orders:** As mentioned, `3xy` and `5yx` are like terms because they both represent the same product of variables. * **Terms with different exponents:** `x²` and `x³` are NOT like terms. Their exponents differ, making them fundamentally different quantities. * **Terms with different variables:** `4x` and `4y` are NOT like terms. The variables are different.

The Role of Like Terms in Equations

The concept of like terms is absolutely crucial when solving algebraic equations. Consider an equation like: `3x + 5 = x + 11` To solve for 'x', you'll want to gather all the 'x' terms on one side of the equation and all the constant terms on the other. This involves identifying and combining like terms. 1. **Identify like terms:** On the left side, we have `3x` and `5`. On the right side, we have `x` and `11`. 2. **Move terms:** To get all 'x' terms on the left, we subtract 'x' from both sides: `3x - x + 5 = x - x + 11` `2x + 5 = 11` 3. **Combine constants:** To get all constant terms on the right,

we subtract 5 from both sides: `2x + 5 - 5 = 11 - 5` `2x = 6` 4. **Solve for x:** Now, we have a simple equation where `2x` and `6` are like terms in a way (they are both constants relative to the variable). Divide both sides by 2: `2x / 2 = 6 / 2` `x = 3` Without the ability to combine like terms, solving such equations would be significantly more challenging.

Beyond Basic Algebra: Where Else Do We See Like Terms?

The principle of grouping similar items is fundamental across many areas of mathematics and even in real-world scenarios. * **Polynomials:** The definition of like terms is central to understanding and manipulating polynomials. Simplifying polynomials by combining like terms is a standard procedure. * **Algebraic Fractions:** When adding or subtracting algebraic fractions, you often need to find common denominators, which involves recognizing and combining like terms within the numerators and denominators. * **Data Analysis:** In a more abstract sense, when you're working with datasets, you often group similar data points together for analysis. This is conceptually similar to identifying like terms.

Common Mistakes to Avoid** * **Confusing variables:** Mistaking 'x' and 'y' for like terms. * **Ignoring exponents:** Treating 'x' and 'x²' as if they were the same. * **Forgetting negative signs:** Not properly accounting for subtraction when combining terms. For example, combining `3x - 5x`

incorrectly.

Conclusion: The Simplicity of Like Terms The definition of like terms in math might seem straightforward, but its importance cannot be overstated. They are the key to simplifying algebraic expressions, solving equations, and building a strong foundation for more advanced mathematical concepts. By consistently practicing identifying and combining like terms, you'll find that algebra becomes a much more accessible and less intimidating subject. So, the next time you encounter an algebraic expression, remember to look for those terms that share the same variables raised to the same powers. They are your allies in the quest for a simpler, more elegant mathematical solution! Understanding like

terms is truly a gateway to mastering algebraic manipulation.

The Definition and Meaning of Like Terms in Mathematics

Like terms in mathematics represent a foundational concept that simplifies algebraic expressions and forms the backbone of equation solving. At its core, a like term is any term that contains the same variable raised to the same power, even if the coefficients or constants differ. For instance, in the expression 3x and –5x, both terms contain the variable x with the same degree, making them like terms despite differing in coefficient. Likewise, $7y^2$ and $-2y^2$ are like terms because they share the same variable and exponent. This similarity allows like terms to be combined through addition or subtraction, streamlining algebraic manipulation and enabling clearer expression simplification.

Understanding the Conceptual Basis

The idea of like terms is rooted in the principle of combining like quantities—just as you add apples and apples but cannot directly combine apples with oranges, algebraic operations respect the uniformity in variable structure. When terms share identical variables and exponents, they represent the same mathematical entity in different forms, making aggregation both logical and meaningful. This consistency is essential in solving equations, rearranging expressions, and reducing complexity in polynomial equations. Without recognizing like terms, algebraic expressions

would become unwieldy, impeding progress in problem-solving and symbolic computation.

Applications Across Mathematical Disciplines

Like terms play a pivotal role not only in basic algebra but also in advanced mathematics. In polynomial arithmetic, combining like terms simplifies expressions such as $2x^3 + 5x^2 – 3x^3 + x$, which reduces to $-x^3 + 5x^2 + x$. In calculus, when integrating or differentiating expressions involving polynomials, identifying and combining like terms ensures accurate and simplified results. In linear algebra, vectors expressed in component form rely on the principle of like terms when summing vectors with matching dimension. Even in statistics, when calculating moments or expected values involving multiple variables, grouping like terms streamlines computation. The principle thus extends far beyond elementary algebra, underpinning much of mathematical reasoning.

Benefits of Mastering Like Terms

Understanding like terms equips learners with a critical skill that enhances mathematical fluency and problem-solving efficiency. It fosters precision by eliminating ambiguity in expressions, enabling clearer communication of mathematical ideas. This clarity is vital in academic settings, where structured reasoning and correct notation are paramount. Professionally, engineers, data scientists, and financial analysts depend on this ability to parse and simplify complex data models. Moreover, the concept strengthens logical thinking, training the mind to recognize patterns and relationships—a transferable skill valuable in coding, algorithmic design, and quantitative analysis. Mastery of like terms thus serves as both a stepping stone and a cornerstone in mathematical education and practice.

Looking Ahead: The Evolving Role of Like Terms

As mathematics evolves alongside technology, the principle of like terms remains indispensable, even in modern computational environments. With the rise of symbolic computation software and artificial intelligence in education, recognizing and automating the grouping of like terms enhances efficiency and accuracy in solving equations. Educational tools increasingly emphasize conceptual understanding over rote memorization, encouraging deeper engagement with foundational ideas like like terms. In an era driven by data and algorithmic precision, the ability to identify and combine like terms continues to be a vital skill, bridging classical algebra with emerging computational methodologies. As new fields such as machine learning and big data analytics expand, the clarity and simplicity provided by like terms will remain essential for modeling, analysis, and innovation.

Understanding Like Terms in Mathematics: A Comprehensive Guide

In the dynamic world of mathematics, precision and clarity are paramount. When navigating algebraic expressions, a fundamental concept that underpins much of our work is the understanding of "like terms." Failing to grasp this seemingly simple notion can lead to errors in simplification, solving equations, and a general sense of confusion. This detailed, analytical guide aims to demystify the definition of like terms in math, providing a robust understanding for students and enthusiasts alike. We'll explore what they are, why they matter, how to identify them, and their crucial role in various mathematical operations.

What Exactly Are Like Terms?

At its core, a **like term** in algebra is a mathematical expression that has the same **variables** raised to the same **exponents**. Think of them as algebraic cousins – they share the same essential characteristics. This means that not only must the variables be identical, but their powers must also match precisely. If either the variable or its exponent differs, the terms are considered unlike.

The Crucial Components: Variables and Exponents

Let's break down the key elements that define like terms:

1. **Variables:** These are the letters or symbols that represent unknown values (e.g., x, y, a, b). For terms to be alike, they must contain the exact same variables. For example, 'x' is a variable, and another term must also have 'x' to be considered a potential like term.
2. **Exponents:** These are the small numbers written above and to the right of a variable, indicating how many times the variable is multiplied by itself (e.g., x^2, x^3, y^5). For terms to be like terms, the exponents on each corresponding variable must be identical. So, x^2 and x^2 are like terms, but x^2 and x^3 are unlike terms because their exponents differ.
3. **Coefficients:** While coefficients (the numerical factor multiplying a variable, like the '3' in 3x) are important in calculations, they do not determine whether terms are like terms. For instance, 3x and 5x are like terms because they both have the variable 'x' raised to the power of 1 (which is usually not explicitly written).

Illustrative Examples: Identifying Like

Terms

To solidify your understanding, let's examine some examples:

1. **Like Terms:**
    1. 3x and 7x (both have 'x' to the power of 1)
    2. $5y^2$ and $-2y^2$ (both have 'y' squared)
    3. 2ab and 9ab (both have 'a' times 'b' to the power of 1)
    4. $4x^2y$ and x^2y (both have 'x' squared and 'y' to the power of 1)
2. **Unlike Terms:**
    1. 3x and 3y (different variables)
    2. $5x^2$ and $5x^3$ (different exponents on 'x')
    3. 2ab and $2a^2b$ (different exponents on 'a')
    4. 7x and $7x^2$ (different exponents on 'x')
    5. 3x + 5y and 8x (even though there's an 'x' in both, the '5y' makes the first expression a binomial with unlike terms)

Why Are Like Terms Important? The Foundation of Algebraic Simplification

The concept of like terms is not merely an abstract definition; it's the bedrock upon which many algebraic manipulations are built. The primary reason for identifying and understanding like terms is their role in **simplifying algebraic expressions**. You can only directly combine or operate on like terms.

Combining Like Terms: The Art of Addition

and Subtraction

When you encounter an algebraic expression with multiple terms, the first step in simplifying it is usually to identify and combine any like terms. This process involves adding or subtracting their coefficients while keeping the variables and their exponents unchanged.

Example: Consider the expression: 5x + 3y - 2x + 7y

1. **Identify like terms:**
    1. Like terms with 'x': 5x and -2x
    2. Like terms with 'y': 3y and 7y
2. **Combine the coefficients of the 'x' terms:** 5x - 2x = 3x
3. **Combine the coefficients of the 'y' terms:** 3y + 7y = 10y
4. **The simplified expression:** 3x + 10y

This ability to combine like terms is what allows us to reduce complex expressions to their simplest forms, making them easier to understand and work with. This is a fundamental skill in solving linear equations and beyond.

Beyond Addition and Subtraction: Like Terms in Multiplication and Division

While the most direct application of like terms is in addition and subtraction, the concept indirectly influences multiplication and division as well. When multiplying or dividing terms, you apply rules of exponents that essentially group variables, creating a similar effect to combining like terms.

Example (Multiplication): Consider $(3x^2) * (4x^3)$. Here, we multiply the coefficients (3 * 4 = 12) and then add the exponents of the like variable 'x' (2 + 3 = 5). This results in $12x^5$. While not combining directly, the process relies on identifying the common variable.

Example (Division): Consider $(10y^5) / (2y^2)$. We divide the coefficients (10 / 2 = 5) and subtract the exponents of the like variable 'y' (5 - 2 = 3). This results in $5y^3$.

Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

Despite its apparent simplicity, the concept of like terms can sometimes trip up learners. Here are some common mistakes and how to steer clear of them:

Mistake 1: Confusing Variables

The error: Treating terms with different variables as like terms. For example, thinking that 4x and 4y are like terms and can be combined into 8xy or 8x + y.

The solution: Always double-check that the variables are identical. If they're not, the terms are unlike, and they cannot be combined through addition or subtraction.

Mistake 2: Ignoring Exponents

The error: Forgetting to match the exponents. For instance, assuming that $5x^2$ and 5x are like terms.

The solution: Pay close attention to the exponents. If the exponents are different, the terms are unlike, even if the variable is the same.

Mistake 3: Misinterpreting Coefficients

The error: Thinking that terms with different coefficients but the same variables and exponents are unlike. For example, believing that 3x and 5x

cannot be combined.

The solution: Remember that coefficients are the numerical multipliers and do not affect whether terms are like or unlike. You can combine terms with different coefficients as long as the variables and exponents match.

Mistake 4: Including Constants with Variable Terms

The error: Trying to combine constant terms (numbers without variables) with terms that have variables. For example, attempting to combine 5x and 7 into 12x or 12.

The solution: Constant terms can only be combined with other constant terms. They are a distinct category of "like terms" among themselves.

Like Terms in Higher Mathematics and Beyond

The fundamental principle of like terms extends far beyond basic algebra. In calculus, when dealing with polynomial differentiation or integration, you often need to combine like terms to simplify the process. In more advanced topics like linear algebra, the concept of combining vectors with similar components shares a conceptual parallel with combining like terms in algebra.

Understanding like terms is not just about solving homework problems; it's about building a strong foundation for more complex mathematical reasoning. It fosters an organized approach to problem-solving and enhances critical thinking skills.

Conclusion: Mastering the Art of Algebraic Simplicity

In summary, **like terms in math** are algebraic expressions that share the same variables raised to the same exponents. They are the building blocks for simplifying algebraic expressions through addition and subtraction. By diligently identifying and combining like terms, we can unravel complex equations, clarify mathematical statements, and pave the way for deeper understanding in various branches of mathematics. Mastering this foundational concept is an essential step on the journey to mathematical proficiency.

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The psychological impact of easy access should not be underestimated. When learning resources feel readily available, curiosity becomes less restrained. Readers explore topics without hesitation, revisit ideas more often, and engage with content more deeply. Learning becomes part of daily life rather than a separate activity.

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For long-term learners, downloadable books provide continuity. Notes remain saved, highlights preserved, and bookmarks intact across devices. This persistence supports ongoing projects and evolving interests, allowing readers to build knowledge progressively rather than starting from scratch each time.

The role of digital books extends beyond convenience. They shape how information is valued and used. Instead of being consumed once and forgotten, digital materials are revisited, updated, and integrated into broader understanding. With What Is The Definition Of Like Terms In Math available digitally, knowledge remains active rather than static.

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Questions & Answers About what is the definition of like terms in math

No	Question	Answer
1	What's the simplest way to understand 'like terms' in math?	Think of 'like terms' as mathematical buddies! They have the same variable(s) raised to the same power(s). For example, $3x$ and $5x$ are like terms, but $3x$ and $3x^2$ are not.

2	Why do we even care about like terms in algebra?	Identifying like terms is crucial for simplifying algebraic expressions. You can only add or subtract terms that are alike, just like you can only combine apples with apples, not apples with oranges!
3	Can you give me a clear example of like terms and unlike terms?	Sure! In the expression 2a + 5b - 3a + 7, '2a' and '-3a' are like terms because they both have the variable 'a'. '5b' and '7' are unlike terms because they have different variables or no variables at all.
4	Does the coefficient (the number in front) matter when determining like terms?	No, the coefficient does NOT matter! Only the variable part (including its exponent) needs to be identical. So, 7y and -2y are like terms.
5	What if there are multiple variables? How do I find like terms then?	If there are multiple variables, all of them must match *in the same order* and have the same exponents. For instance, 4xy and -9xy are like terms, but 4xy and 4yx are also like terms because order of multiplication doesn't change the result (though it's good practice to write them consistently).
6	Are constant numbers considered like terms with variables?	No, constant numbers (just numbers without any variables) can only be combined with other constant numbers. They are their own 'like terms'. For example, in 5x + 8 + 2x + 3, 5x and 2x are like terms, and 8 and 3 are like terms.
7	What's the goal when you combine like terms?	The goal is to 'combine' them by adding or subtracting their coefficients, resulting in a simpler, more condensed expression. This makes expressions easier to work with in equations and further calculations.

like terms in algebra definition, definition of like terms math, identifying like terms in equations, like terms meaning in mathematics, algebra basics like terms, what are like terms in math, clear definition of like terms, how to recognize like terms, like terms and simplifying expressions, mathematical

definition of like terms

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