VERMONT



ALGEBRA I

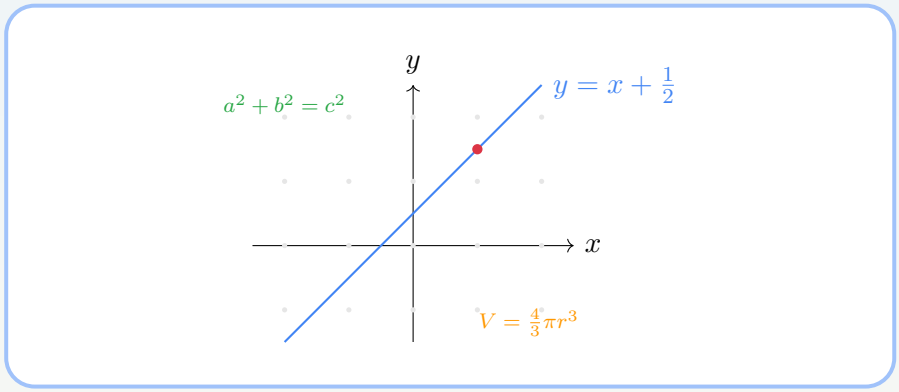
MADE RIDICULOUSLY SIMPLE

★ THE ULTIMATE STUDY GUIDE TO ACE ALGEBRA I ★

Vermont Algebra I

Made Ridiculously Simple

Comprehensive Practice, Challenging Exercises, and Strategic Guidance for Complete Test-Day Confidence



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9-12.HSA-REI.A.1	Explain each step in solving a simple equation as following from the equality of numbers asserted at the previous step, starting from the assumption that the original equation has a solution. Construct a viable argument to justify a solution method.
9-12.HSA-REI.B.3	Solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable, including equations with coefficients represented by letters.
9-12.HSA-REI.B.4a	Use the method of completing the square to transform any quadratic equation in x into an equation of the form $(x - p)^2 = q$ that has the same solutions. Derive the quadratic formula from this form.
9-12.HSA-REI.B.4b	Solve quadratic equations by inspection (e.g., for $x^2 = 49$), taking square roots, completing the square, the quadratic formula and factoring, as appropriate to the initial form of the equation. Recognize when the quadratic formula gives complex solutions and write them as $a \pm bi$ for real numbers a and b.
9-12.HSA-REI.C.5	Prove that, given a system of two equations in two variables, replacing one equation by the sum of that equation and a multiple of the other produces a system with the same solutions.
9-12.HSA-REI.C.6	Solve systems of linear equations exactly and approximately (e.g., with graphs), focusing on pairs of linear equations in two variables.
9-12.HSA-REI.C.7	Solve a simple system consisting of a linear equation and a quadratic equation in two variables algebraically and graphically.
9-12.HSA-REI.D.10	Understand that the graph of an equation in two variables is the set of all its solutions plotted in the coordinate plane, often forming a curve (which could be a line).
9-12.HSA-REI.D.11	Explain why the x-coordinates of the points where the graphs of the equations $y = f(x)$ and $y = g(x)$ intersect are the solutions of the equation $f(x) = g(x)$; find the solutions approximately, e.g., using technology to graph the functions, make tables of values, or find successive approximations. Include cases where $f(x)$ and/or $g(x)$ are linear, polynomial, rational, absolute value, exponential, and logarithmic functions.
9-12.HSA-REI.D.12	Graph the solutions to a linear inequality in two variables as a half-plane (excluding the boundary in the case of a strict inequality), and graph the solution set to a system of linear inequalities in two variables as the intersection of the corresponding half-planes.
9-12.HSA-SSE.A.2	Use the structure of an expression to identify ways to rewrite it.

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9-12.HSA-SSE.A.1a	Interpret parts of an expression, such as terms, factors, and coefficients.
9-12.HSA-SSE.A.1b	Interpret complicated expressions by viewing one or more of their parts as a single entity.
9-12.HSA-SSE.B.3a	Factor a quadratic expression to reveal the zeros of the function it defines.
9-12.HSA-SSE.B.3b	Complete the square in a quadratic expression to reveal the maximum or minimum value of the function it defines.
9-12.HSA-SSE.B.3c	Use the properties of exponents to transform expressions for exponential functions.
9-12.HSF-BF.A.2	Write arithmetic and geometric sequences both recursively and with an explicit formula, use them to model situations, and translate between the two forms.
9-12.HSF-BF.A.1a	Determine an explicit expression, a recursive process, or steps for calculation from a context.
9-12.HSF-BF.A.1b	Combine standard function types using arithmetic operations.
9-12.HSF-BF.B.3	Identify the effect on the graph of replacing f(x) by f(x) + k, k f(x), f(kx), and f(x + k) for specific values of k (both positive and negative); find the value of k given the graphs. Experiment with cases and illustrate an explanation of the effects on the graph using technology.
9-12.HSF-BF.B.4a	Solve an equation of the form f(x) = c for a simple function f that has an inverse and write an expression for the inverse.
9-12.HSF-IF.A.1	Understand that a function from one set (called the domain) to another set (called the range) assigns to each element of the domain exactly one element of the range. If f is a function and x is an element of its domain, then f(x) denotes the output of f corresponding to the input x. The graph of f is the graph of the equation y = f(x).
9-12.HSF-IF.A.2	Use function notation, evaluate functions for inputs in their domains, and interpret statements that use function notation in terms of a context.
9-12.HSF-IF.A.3	Recognize that sequences are functions, sometimes defined recursively, whose domain is a subset of the integers.

9-12.HSF-IF.B.4	For a function that models a relationship between two quantities, interpret key features of graphs and tables in terms of the quantities, and sketch graphs showing key features given a verbal description of the relationship.
9-12.HSF-IF.B.5	Relate the domain of a function to its graph and, where applicable, to the quantitative relationship it describes.
9-12.HSF-IF.B.6	Calculate and interpret the average rate of change of a function (presented symbolically or as a table) over a specified interval. Estimate the rate of change from a graph.
9-12.HSF-IF.C.9	Compare properties of two functions each represented in a different way (algebraically, graphically, numerically in tables, or by verbal descriptions).
9-12.HSF-IF.C.7a	Graph linear and quadratic functions and show intercepts, maxima, and minima.
9-12.HSF-IF.C.7b	Graph square root, cube root, and piecewise-defined functions, including step functions and absolute value functions.
9-12.HSF-IF.C.7e	Graph exponential and logarithmic functions, showing intercepts and end behavior, and trigonometric functions, showing period, midline, and amplitude.
9-12.HSF-IF.C.8a	Use the process of factoring and completing the square in a quadratic function to show zeros, extreme values, and symmetry of the graph, and interpret these in terms of a context.
9-12.HSF-IF.C.8b	Use the properties of exponents to interpret expressions for exponential functions.
9-12.HSF-LE.A.2	Construct linear and exponential functions, including arithmetic and geometric sequences, given a graph, a description of a relationship, or two input-output pairs (include reading these from a table).
9-12.HSF-LE.A.3	Observe using graphs and tables that a quantity increasing exponentially eventually exceeds a quantity increasing linearly, quadratically, or (more generally) as a polynomial function.
9-12.HSF-LE.A.1a	Prove that linear functions grow by equal differences over equal intervals, and that exponential functions grow by equal factors over equal intervals.
9-12.HSF-LE.A.1b	Recognize situations in which one quantity changes at a constant rate per unit interval relative to another.



Substitute each value: $\frac{(4)^2+3(-2)}{2(5)}$. Numerator: $16+(-6)=10$. Denominator: 10. So the result is $\frac{10}{10}=1$.

Answer: 1

Practice Problems

Simplify or evaluate each expression. Write your answer on the line.

1. $8+3\times 2=$ _____

2. $(8+3)\times 2=$ _____

3. $12\div 4+5\times 3=$ _____

4. $20-3^2+1=$ _____

5. $4\times(6-2)^2\div 8=$ _____

6. $\frac{18}{3+6}=$ _____

7. $-3+(-4)^2\div 2=$ _____

8. $5^2-4\times 3+7=$ _____

9. $2x+5$ when $x=3$ _____

10. $3a^2-2a$ when $a=-1$ _____

11. $\frac{m+n}{m-n}$ when $m=7,\ n=3$ _____

12. $4(x-1)^2+3$ when $x=2$ _____

Study Tips

- Use the phrase **"Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally"** to remember Parentheses, Exponents, Multiplication/Division, Addition/Subtraction.
- Multiplication and division are done *left to right* at the same level—neither one comes first automatically.
- When substituting a negative number for a variable, always wrap it in parentheses to avoid sign errors: write $(-2)^2=4$, not $-2^2=-4$.

Word Problems

13. A phone plan costs \$25 for the base fee plus \$0.05 per text message. If t represents the number of texts, the monthly cost is $25+0.05t$. Find the cost for a month with 120 text messages. _____

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14. Marcus earns d dollars per hour and works h hours per week. His weekly pay after a \$15 deduction for parking is $dh - 15$. Calculate his weekly pay when $d = 12$ and $h = 20$.

_____

1.3 Simplifying Algebraic Expressions

9-12.HSA-SSE.A.2

Simplifying is all about making expressions shorter and easier to work with. In this section you will use the distributive property to remove parentheses, then combine like terms — terms that have the same variable raised to the same power — to write a simpler, equivalent expression. These skills are the foundation for nearly every algebra problem you will see from here on.

Key Concepts & Quick Review

Like Terms: Terms that have the *same* variable(s) raised to the *same* power. For example, $5x$ and $-3x$ are like terms; $5x$ and $5x^2$ are **not**. To combine like terms, add or subtract their coefficients: $5x + (-3x) = 2x$.

Distributive Property: $a(b + c) = ab + ac$. Use it to remove parentheses, then combine any like terms.

Simplification Strategy: **Step 1** — Distribute to clear all parentheses. **Step 2** — Group like terms together. **Step 3** — Combine the coefficients.

Examples

① Simplify $3(2x + 4) - 5x + 7$.

Distribute the 3: $6x + 12 - 5x + 7$. Combine the x-terms: $6x - 5x = x$. Combine the constants: $12 + 7 = 19$. The simplified expression is $x + 19$.

Answer: $x + 19$

② Simplify $-2(3a - 1) + 4(a + 5)$.

Distribute -2: $-6a + 2$. Distribute 4: $4a + 20$. Put them together: $-6a + 2 + 4a + 20$. Combine a-terms: $-6a + 4a = -2a$. Combine constants: $2 + 20 = 22$. Result: $-2a + 22$.

Answer: $-2a + 22$

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✎ Practice Problems

Simplify each expression. Write your answer on the line.

1. $5x + 3x =$ _____

2. $7a - 2a + 4 =$ _____

3. $2(x + 6) =$ _____

4. $-3(2y - 5) =$ _____

5. $4m + 3 - 2m + 1 =$ _____

6. $6(n + 2) - 4n =$ _____

7. $3(x - 4) + 2(x + 1) =$ _____

8. $-5(2p + 3) + 8p =$ _____

9. $7 - 3(k - 2) =$ _____

10. $2(a + b) + 3(a - b) =$ _____

11. $\frac{1}{2}(4x + 8) =$ _____

12. $-4(x - 3) + 4x =$ _____

Study Tips

- ☞ Always distribute **before** you combine like terms. Skipping the distributive step is the most common mistake.
- ☞ Watch the sign in front of each term carefully. $-2(3a - 1)$ gives $-6a+2$, not $-6a - 2$.
- ☞ After simplifying, check your work by plugging in a simple number (like $x = 1$) into both the original and simplified expressions—they should give the same result.

✍ Word Problems

13. A rectangular garden has a length of $(3x + 2)$ feet and a width of $(x + 4)$ feet. Write and simplify an expression for the perimeter. _____

14. Mia buys 3 notebooks at $(n + 1)$ dollars each and 2 pens at $(n - 2)$ dollars each. Write and simplify an expression for her total cost. _____

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