

Multiplication and expansion of polynomials

A. PRODUCT NOTATION

In algebra we agree:

- To **leave out** the “ $\times$ ” **signs** between any multiplied quantities provided that at least one of them is an unknown (letter)
- To write **numerals (numbers) first** in any product
- Where products contain two or more letters, we write them in **alphabetical order**

For example:

- $3a$ is used rather than $3 \times a$ or $a3$
- $2ab$ is used rather than $2ba$

ALGEBRAIC PRODUCTS

The **product** of two or more factors is the result obtained by multiplying them together

Consider the factors $-3x$ and $2x^2$. Their product $-3x \times 2x^2$ can be simplified by following the steps below:

- Step 1: Find the product of the signs.
- Step 2: Find the product of the numerals or numbers.
- Step 3: Find the product of the variables or letters.

So.

$$-2x \times 3x^2 = -6x^3$$

$$- \times + = -$$

$$3 \times 2 = 6$$

$$x \times x^2 = x^3$$

For $-2x$, the sign is $-$, the numeral is 2, and the variable is x

EXAMPLE 1

Simplify the following products:

a) $-3 \times 4x$

b) $2x \times -x^2$

c) $-4x \times -2x^2$

a) $-3 \times 4x$
 $= -12x$

b) $2x \times -x^2$
 $= -2x^3$

c) $-4x \times -2x^2$
 $= 8x^3$

EXERCISE 1

Write the following algebraic products in simplest form:

a) $c \times b$	b) $a \times 2 \times b$	c) $y \times xy$	d) $pq \times 2q$
e) $2 \times 3x$	f) $4x \times 5$	g) $-2 \times 7x$	h) $3 \times -2x$
i) $2x \times x$	j) $3x \times 2x$	k) $-2x \times x$	l) $-3x \times 4$
m) $-2x \times (-x)$	n) $-3x \times x^2$	o) $-x^2 \times (-2x)$	p) $3d \times (-2d)$
q) $(-a)^2$	r) $(-2a)^2$	s) $2a^2 \times a^2$	t) $a^2 \times (-3a)$

EXERCISE 2

Simplify the following:

a) $2 \times 5x + 3x \times 4$	b) $5 \times 3x - 2y \times y$	c) $3 \times x^2 + 2x \times 4x$
d) $a \times 2b + b \times 3a$	e) $4 \times x^2 - 3x \times x$	f) $3x \times y - 2x \times 2y$
g) $3a \times b + 2a \times 2b$	h) $4c \times d - 3c \times 2d$	i) $3a \times b - 2c \times a$

- Multiplication is often written using the multiplication sign or cross symbol "×" between the factors:

$$a \times b$$

- In algebra multiplication is sometimes denoted by a middle dot

$$a \cdot b$$

- In algebra, multiplication involving variables is often written as a juxtaposition

$$ab$$

- This notation can also be used for quantities that are surrounded by parentheses

$$(a)(b)$$

EXERCISE 3

Simplify the following:

a) $(2y) \cdot (3z)$	b) $(-5ab^2c) \cdot (4a^3c) \cdot (b^2c)$	c) $(3xy^2) \cdot (-5x^2yz)$
d) $(12xy) \cdot (6x^2) \cdot (x^2y^3)$	e) $(-3x^3y) \cdot (-2y^6x^5)$	f) $(-4x^7y3z^6) \cdot (3z^3y^2x^5)$

B. THE DISTRIBUTIVE LAW

Consider the expression $2(x + 3)$. We say that 2 is the coefficient of the expression in the brackets. We can expand the brackets using the distributive law:



$$a(b + c) = ab + ac$$

The distributive law says that we must multiply the coefficient by each term within the brackets, and add the results.

EXAMPLE 2

Expand the following:

a) $3(4x + 1)$

b) $2x(5 - 2x)$

c) $-2x(x - 3)$

a) 

$$\begin{aligned} &3(4x + 1) \\ &= 3 \times 4x + 3 \times 1 \\ &= 12x + 3 \end{aligned}$$

b) 

$$\begin{aligned} &2x(5 - 2x) \\ &= 2x \times 5 + 2x \times (-2x) \\ &= 10x - 4x^2 \end{aligned}$$

c) 

$$\begin{aligned} &-2x(x - 3) \\ &= (-2x) \times x + (-2x) \times (-3) \\ &= -2x^2 + 6x \end{aligned}$$

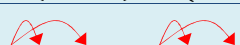
With practice, we do not need to write all of these steps.

EXAMPLE 3

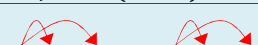
Expand and simplify:

a) $2(3x - 1) + 3(5 - x)$

b) $x(2x - 1) - 2x(5 - x)$

a) 

$$\begin{aligned} &2(3x - 1) + 3(5 - x) \\ &= 6x - 2 + 15 - 3x \\ &= 3x + 13 \end{aligned}$$

b) 

$$\begin{aligned} &x(2x - 1) - 2x(5 - x) \\ &= 2x^2 - x - 10x + 2x^2 \\ &= 4x^2 - 11x \end{aligned}$$

Notice in b) that the minus sign in front of $2x$ affects **both** terms inside the following bracket

EXERCISE 4

Expand and simplify:

a) $3(x + 1)$

b) $2(5 - x)$

c) $-(x + 2)$

d) $x(x + 3)$

e) $-3(x + 2)$

f) $-2(x - y)$

g) $x(2x - 1)$

h) $2x(x^2 - x - 2)$

i) $1 + 2(x + 2)$

j) $13 - (4(x + 3))$

k) $3(x - 6) + 2$

l) $x(x - 1) + x$

m) $2x(3 - x) + x^2$

n) $4x - 5x(2x - 3)$

o) $7x^2 - 4x(x + 2)$

p) $3a(b - a) + 5a^2$

EXERCISE 5

Expand and simplify:

a) $3(x - 5) + 2(5 + x)$	b) $2a + (5a - 7b)$	c) $2a - (3a - 6b)$
d) $3(y + 2) + 5(4 - y)$	e) $6(x - 2) - 4(3x + 5)$	f) $4x - 3(2 - 3x)$
g) $2x^2 - x(3x - 2)$	h) $2x(4x - 3) - 3x(5x + 3)$	i) $-3x^2(x^3 - 4)$
j) $a^2(5ab - a^2)$	k) $3x^3(2x^4 - 4x^3)$	l) $-4x^2(2x - 5) - 2x(3x^2 - x)$

C. THE PRODUCT $(a + b)(c + d)$

$$(a + b)(c + d) = ac + ad + bc + bd$$

To remember $\rightarrow$ FOIL rule ac = is the product of First terms of each bracket ad = is the product of Outer terms of each bracket bc = is the product of Innner terms of each bracket bd = is the product of Last terms of each bracket**EXAMPLE 4**

Expand and simplify:

a) $(x + 2)(x + 3)$

$$\begin{aligned} &(x + 2)(x + 3) \\ &= x^2 + 3x + 2x + 6 \\ &= x^2 + 5x + 6 \end{aligned}$$

b) $(2x + 3)(3x - 5)$

$$\begin{aligned} &(2x + 3)(3x - 5) \\ &= 6x^2 - 10x + 9x - 15 \\ &= 6x^2 - x - 15 \end{aligned}$$

EXERCISE 6

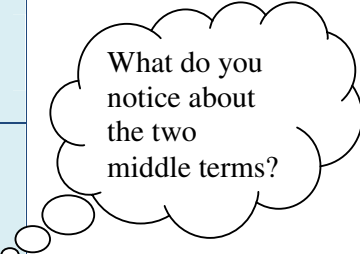
Expand and simplify:

a) $(x - 6)(x + 7)$	b) $(x + 3)(x - 2)$	c) $(x + 5)(x - 5)$
d) $(2y + 2)(4y - 6)$	e) $(x - 2)(1 - 3x)$	f) $(6x - 1)(6x - 1)$
g) $(4 - 6x)(3x - 2)$	h) $(4x - 3)(5 + 3x)$	i) $(x - 3)(x^3 - 4)$
j) $(2x^2 - 5x)(3x^2 + 4x)$	k) $(3x^3 + 4x^2)(2x^2 - 5x)$	l) $(5x - 4)(7x + 5)$

EXAMPLE 5

Expand and simplify:

a) $(x + 5)(x - 5)$	b) $(4x - 3)(4x + 3)$
a) $(x + 5)(x - 5)$ $= x^2 - 5x + 5x - 25$ $= x^2 - 25$	b) $(4x - 3)(4x + 3)$ $= 16x^2 + 12x - 12x - 9$ $= 16x^2 - 9$



What do you notice about the two middle terms?

EXERCISE 7

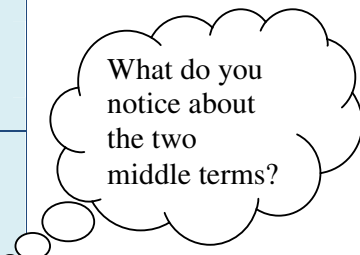
Expand and simplify:

a) $(x - 6)(x + 6)$	b) $(x + 3)(x - 3)$	c) $(2x + 5)(2x - 5)$
d) $(4y + 6)(4y - 6)$	e) $(3x - 2)(2 + 3x)$	f) $(6x + 1)(6x - 1)$

EXAMPLE 6

Expand and simplify:

a) $(2x + 5)^2$	b) $(4x - 3)^2$
a) $(2x + 5)^2$ $= (2x + 5)(2x + 5)$ $= 4x^2 + 10x + 10x + 25$ $= x^2 + 20x + 25$	b) $(4x - 3)^2$ $= (4x - 3)(4x - 3)$ $= 16x^2 - 12x - 12x + 9$ $= 16x^2 - 24x + 9$



What do you notice about the two middle terms?

EXERCISE 8

Expand and simplify doing the product:

a) $(x + 6)^2$	b) $(x - 3)^2$	c) $(2x - 5)^2$
d) $(4y - 3)^2$	e) $(3 - 2x)^2$	f) $(6x + a)^2$

D. DIFFERENCE OF TWO SQUARES

If a^2 and b^2 are perfect squares then $a^2 - b^2$ is called the **difference of two squares**

Notice that $(a + b)(a - b) = a^2 - \underbrace{ab + ab}_{\text{The middle two terms add to zero}} - b^2 = a^2 - b^2$

The middle two terms add to zero

Thus,

$$(a + b)(a - b) = a^2 - b^2$$

EXAMPLE 7

Expand and simplify:

a) $(3x + 5)(3x - 5)$

b) $(4x - 3y)(4x + 3y)$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } (3x + 5)(3x - 5) \\ &= (3x)^2 - (5)^2 \\ &= 9x^2 - 25 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } (4x - 3y)(4x + 3y) \\ &= (4x)^2 - (3y)^2 \\ &= 16x^2 - 9y^2 \end{aligned}$$

EXERCISE 9

Expand and simplify using the rule $(a + b)(a - b) = a^2 - b^2$:

a) $(x - 6)(x + 6)$	b) $(x + 3)(x - 3)$	c) $(2x + 5)(2x - 5)$
d) $(4y + 6)(4y - 6)$	e) $(3x - 2)(2 + 3x)$	f) $(6x + 1)(6x - 1)$
g) $(2x - 1)(2x + 1)$	h) $(2x + 3y)(2x - 3y)$	i) $(2x^2 + 5)(2x^2 - 5)$
j) $(4y^2 + 6)(4y^2 - 6)$	k) $(3x - 2y)(2y + 3x)$	l) $(6x + a)(6x - a)$
m) $(4x^3 + 5y)(4x^3 - 5y)$	n) $(3a^2 + b)(3a^2 - b)$	o) $(2yx^2 + 4z)(2yx^2 - 4z)$

E. PERFECT SQUARES EXPANSION

$(a + b)^2$ and $(a - b)^2$ are called **perfect squares**.

Notice that $(a + b)^2 = (a + b)(a + b)$
 $= a^2 + ab + ab + b^2$ using FOIL
 $= a^2 + 2ab + b^2$

Notice that
the middle
two terms
are identical

Thus, we can state the perfect square expansion rule:

$$(a + b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$$

We can remember the rule as follows:

Step 1: Square the **first term**.

Step 2: Add twice the products of the **first** and **last terms**.

Step 3: Add on the square of the **last term**.

Notice that $(a - b)^2 = (a - b)(a - b)$

$$= a^2 - ab - ab + b^2 \text{ using FOIL}$$

$$= a^2 - 2ab + b^2$$

So, we can state:

$$(a - b)^2 = a^2 - 2ab + b^2$$

EXAMPLE 8

Expand and simplify:

a) $(5x + 3)^2$

b) $(6 - 4x)^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } (5x + 3)^2 &= 25x^2 + 2 \cdot 5x \cdot 3 + 3^2 \\ &= 25x^2 + 30x + 9 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } (6 - 4x)^2 &= 6^2 - 2 \cdot 6 \cdot 4x + (4x)^2 \\ &= 36 - 48x + 16x^2 \end{aligned}$$

EXERCISE 10

Expand and simplify using the perfect square expansion rule:

a) $(x + 6)^2$

b) $(x - 3)^2$

c) $(2x - 5)^2$

d) $(4y - 3)^2$

e) $(3 - 2x)^2$

f) $(6x + a)^2$

g) $(3x + 4)^2$

h) $(2a - b)^2$

i) $(7 + 2a)^2$

j) $(12y - 3x)^2$

k) $(3z - 4x)^2$

l) $(25x - 2xy)^2$

EXAMPLE 9

Expand and simplify:

a) $(3x^2 + 5)^2$

b) $6 - (4 + 3x)^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } (3x^2 + 5)^2 &= (3x^2)^2 + 2 \cdot 3x^2 \cdot 5 + 5^2 \\ &= 9x^4 + 30x^2 + 25 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } 6 - (4 + 3x)^2 &= 6 - (4^2 + 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 3x + (3x)^2) \\ &= 6 - (16 + 24x + 9x^2) \\ &= 6 - 16 - 24x - 9x^2 \\ &= -10 - 24x - 9x^2 \end{aligned}$$

Notice the use of square brackets in the second line. These remind us to change the signs inside them when they are removed

EXERCISE 11

Expand and simplify:

a) $(x^2 + 4)^2$	b) $(2a - b^2)^2$	c) $(7^2 + 2a^2)^2$
d) $(5y - 3x^2)^2$	e) $(2z^2 - 3z)^2$	f) $(2x^2 - 5y^2)^2$
g) $(x^3 - 2x)^2$	h) $(2a^3 - 4a^2)^2$	i) $(2x^3 - 6x)^2$

EXERCISE 12

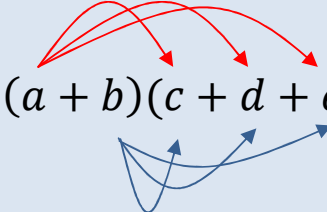
Expand and simplify:

a) $3x + 1 - (x + 4)^2$	b) $5x - 3 + (x - 2)^2$
c) $(x + 1)(x - 1) - (x + 4)^2$	d) $(x + 3)(x - 3) - (x - 2)^2$
e) $(2x - 3)^2 + (x + 5)(x - 5)$	f) $(3x + 2)^2 - (x + 4)(x - 4)$
g) $(3x + 2)(3x - 2) - (5 - x)^2$	h) $(2x + 9)(2x - 9) - (4x - 6)^2$
i) $(x - 7)^2 + (x + 8)^2$	j) $(4x + 2)^2 - (x - 9)^2$

F. FURTHER EXPANSION

In this section we will expand more complicated expressions by repeated use of the expansion laws.

Consider the expansion of $(a + b)(c + d + e)$

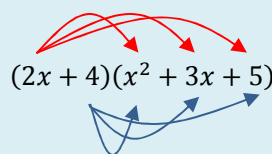


$$(a + b)(c + d + e) = ac + ad + ae + bc + bd + be$$

Notice that there are 6 terms in this expansion and that **each term within the first bracket is multiplied by each term in the second**

2 terms in the first bracket $\times$ 3 terms in the second bracket = 6 terms in the expansion

EXAMPLE 9Expand and simplify: $(2x + 4)(x^2 + 3x + 5)$

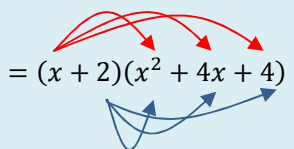


$$(2x + 4)(x^2 + 3x + 5) = 2x^3 + 6x^2 + 10x + 4x^2 + 12x + 20$$

$$= 2x^3 + 10x^2 + 22x + 20 \quad \{\text{Collecting like terms}\}$$

EXAMPLE 10Expand and simplify: $(x + 2)^3$

$$(x + 2)^3 = (x + 2)(x + 2)^2$$

$$= (x + 2)(x^2 + 4x + 4)$$


$$= (x + 2)(x^2 + 4x + 4) \quad \{\text{each term within the first bracket is multiplied by each term in the second bracket}\}$$

$$= x^3 + 4x^2 + 4x + 2x^2 + 8x + 8$$

$$= x^3 + 6x^2 + 12x + 8 \quad \{\text{Collecting like terms}\}$$

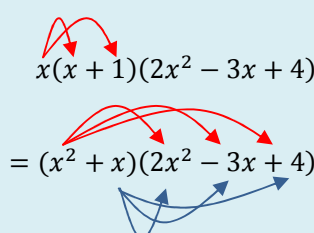
EXAMPLE 11

Expand and simplify:

a) $x(x + 1)(2x^2 - 3x + 4)$

b) $(x + 2)(x - 3)(x + 3)$

a)



$$x(x + 1)(2x^2 - 3x + 4)$$

$$= (x^2 + x)(2x^2 - 3x + 4)$$

$$= 2x^4 - 3x^3 + 4x^2 + 2x^3 - 3x^2 + 4x$$

$$= 2x^4 - x^3 + x^2 + 4x \quad \{\text{Collecting like terms}\}$$

b)

$$(x + 2)(x - 3)(x + 3)$$

$$= (x + 2)(x - 3)(x + 3)$$

$$= (x + 2)(x^2 - 9) \quad \{\text{difference of two squares}\}$$

$$= x^3 - 9x + 2x^2 - 18$$

$$= x^3 + 2x^2 - 9x - 18$$

Always look for ways to make your expansions simpler. In b) we can use the difference of two squares

EXERCISE 13

Expand and simplify:

a) $(x + 3)(x^2 + x + 5)$	b) $(2x - 4)(3x^2 - 5x + 2)$
c) $(3x - 1)(5x^2 + 4x - 6)$	d) $(4x + 3)(6x^2 - 2x - 8)$
e) $(x - 2)^3$	f) $(2x + 3)^3$
g) $(2x + 1)^3$	h) $(3x - 2)^3$
i) $x(x + 3)(x + 3)$	j) $x(x - 3)(x + 1)$
k) $2x(x - 4)(x + 4)$	l) $(x + 2)(x - 2)(2x + 3)$
m) $-3x(2x - 1)(x + 2)$	n) $x(1 - 3x)(2x + 5)$
o) $2x^2(x - 1)^2$	p) $(3x - 2)(x - 2)(x + 1)$
q) $(x - 3)(1 - x)(2x - 2)$	r) $(x - 1)(x - 2)(x + 2)$

HARDER EXTENSION**EXERCISE 14**

Expand and simplify:

a) $(x^4 + 3x^3)(4x^5 + 2x^4 + 5x^3)$	b) $(3x^3 - 2x^2)(x^4 - 3x^3 - 5x^2 - 1)$
c) $(2x^4 + x^3 + 3x^2 - 2)(x^3 - 3x + 1)$	d) $(x^4 - 7x^3 + x^2 - 1)(x^3 + 4x^2 - 6x + 2)$

G. THE BINOMIAL EXPANSIONConsider $(a + b)^n$. We note that:

- $a + b$ is called a binomial as it contains two terms
- Any expression of the form $(a + b)^n$ is called a power of a binomial
- The binomial expansion of $(a + b)^n$ is obtained by writing the expression without brackets.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Now } (a + b)^3 &= (a + b)(a + b)^2 \\
 &= (a + b)(a^2 + 2ab + b^2) \\
 &= a^3 + 2a^2b + ab^2 + ba^2 + 2ab^2 + b^3 \\
 &= a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3
 \end{aligned}$$

So, the binomial expansion of

$$(a + b)^3 = a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3$$

Doing the same process with

$$\begin{aligned}(a - b)^3 &= (a - b)(a - b)^2 \\ &= (a - b)(a^2 - 2ab + b^2) \\ &= a^3 - 2a^2b + ab^2 - ba^2 + 2ab^2 - b^3 \\ &= a^3 - 3a^2b + 3ab^2 - b^3\end{aligned}$$

So, the binomial expansion of

$$(a - b)^3 = a^3 - 3a^2b + 3ab^2 - b^3$$

EXAMPLE 12

Expand and simplify using the binomial expansion:

a) $(x + 2)^3$

b) $(2x - 4)^3$

a) {Using $(a + b)^3 = a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3$ }

We substitute $a = x$ and $b = 2$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore (x + 2)^3 &= x^3 + 3x^2 \cdot 2 + 3x \cdot 2^2 + 2^3 \\ &= x^3 + 6x^2 + 12x + 8\end{aligned}$$

We use brackets
to assist our
substitution

b) {Using $(a - b)^3 = a^3 - 3a^2b + 3ab^2 - b^3$ }

We substitute $a = (2x)$ and $b = 4$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore (2x - 4)^3 &= (2x)^3 - 3(2x)^2 \cdot 4 + 3(2x) \cdot 4^2 - 4^3 \\ &= 8x^3 - 48x^2 + 96x - 64\end{aligned}$$

b) {Using $(a + b)^3 = a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3$ }

We substitute $a = (2x)$ and $b = (-4)$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore (2x - 4)^3 &= (2x)^3 + 3(2x)^2(-4) + 3(2x)(-4)^2 + (-4)^3 \\ &= 8x^3 - 48x^2 + 96x - 64\end{aligned}$$

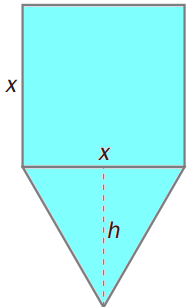
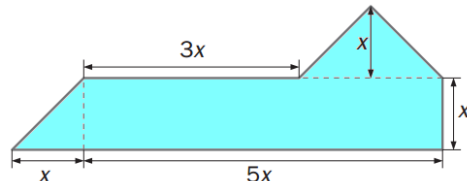
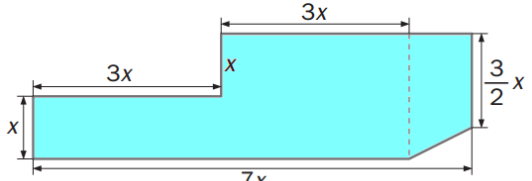
EXERCISE 15

Use the binomial expansion for $(a + b)^3$ or $(a - b)^3$ to expand and simplify:

a) $(x + 1)^3$	b) $(3x - 2)^3$	c) $(x - 5y)^3$
d) $(2x + 3)^3$	e) $(4a - 6)^3$	f) $(2x^2 + 1)^3$
g) $(x^3 - 2x)^3$	h) $(a^3 - 4a^2)^3$	i) $(3x^3 + x)^3$

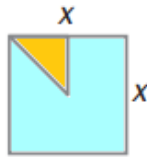
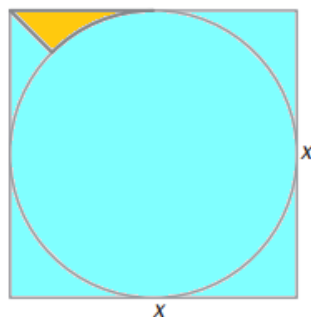
EXERCISE 15 (Extension)

Find, in terms of x , the surface area of the following figures:

a) 	b) 
c) 	d) 

EXERCISE 16 (Extension)

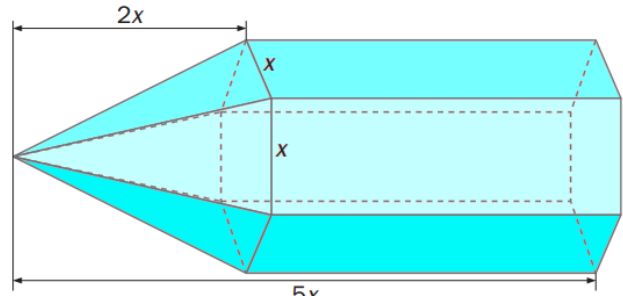
Find, in terms of x , the surface area of the orange zone of the following figures:

a) 	b) 
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EXERCISE 17 (Extension)

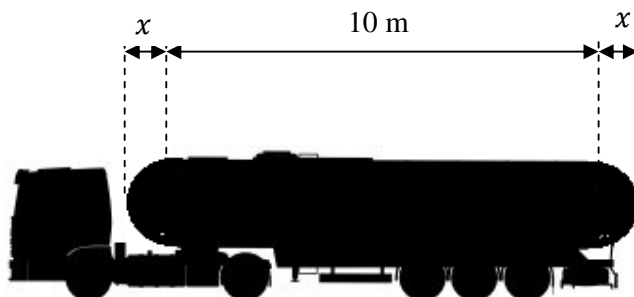
Find, in terms of x , the volume of the following figure:

a)



EXERCISE 18 (Extension)

- a) Find, in terms of x , the surface area and the volume, of the following cylindrical water tank trailer, with hemispherical endings.
- b) Find the surface and volume if $x = 3$ m.



EXERCISE 19 (Review)

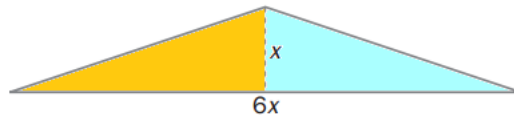
- a) Expand and simplify:

1. $4x \cdot 8$
2. $6x \cdot 2x^2$
3. $2x \cdot 5x^3 \cdot (-3x^2) \cdot x$
4. $(-4x)(-7x)$
5. $5x^2y \cdot (-3y^2x^3)$
6. $x(5x - 6)$
7. $4 - 2(2x + 3)$
8. $2(x - 6) + 3(2 - x)$
9. $5(2x - 3) - 8(4x - 7)$
10. $3x^2(4x^5 - 7x^2)$
11. $-6x^2(3x - 4) - 3x(5x^2 - 2x)$
12. $(3x + 2)(x - 4)$
13. $(x - 5)^2$
14. $(3x + 4)^2$
15. $(2x - 6)^2$
16. $(2x - 6)(2x + 6)$
17. $(x - 5)(x + 5)$
18. $x(x - 3)(x + 3)$

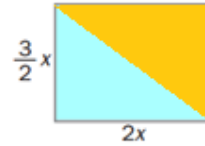
19. $-5x(x+2)(x-2)$
20. $-(x+3)^2$
21. $(2x-5)(x-1)(x+1)$
22. $(x-5)(x-1)(x-1)$
23. $(x-1)^3$
24. $5+2x-(x+2)^2$
25. $(3x-2)(x^2-2x+7)$
26. $(x-1)(x+2)(x-3)$
27. $x(x+2)^3$
28. $(x^2+1)(x+1)(x-1)$
29. $(x+5)(x-5)(2x+3)$
30. $(2x^3-x^2)(3x^4-x^2+5x-2)$
31. $(3x-4)^3$

b) Find, in terms of x , the surface area of the orange zone of the following figures:

1.



2.



KEY POINTS

Useful products: (In Spanish: “productos notables”)

$$a(b + c) = ab + ac$$

$$(a + b)(c + d) = ac + ad + bc + bd$$

$$(a + b)(a - b) = a^2 - b^2$$

$$(a + b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$$

$$(a - b)^2 = a^2 - 2ab + b^2$$

$$(a + b)^3 = a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3$$

$$(a - b)^3 = a^3 - 3a^2b + 3ab^2 - b^3$$

Expansion and factorisation relation:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \xrightarrow{\text{Expansion}} \\
 (a + b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2 \\
 \xleftarrow{\text{Factorisation}}
 \end{array}$$

Note: $a^2 + b^2$ cannot be factorised. $a^2 - b^2$ is the **difference of squares**

MORE EXERCISES TO PRACTICE AT HOME:

EXERCISE 20		
1)	Simplify, by collecting like terms	
a	$7x + 3y^3 - 2xy + 2xy - 5x - 6y^3$	
b	$2x^2 - 4xy + 3y^2 - (8x^2 - 2xy + 6y^2)$	
c	$(2x^3 + 5x) - (3x^2 + 2x) + (x^3 - 6x) - (x + 4x^2)$	
d	$5ab + 6a^2b - 7ab^2 + 2a^2b - 3ab$	
2)	Expand and simplify	
a	$(x + 1)^2$	b $(x + 2)^2$
d	$(x - 5)^2$	e $(x + 1)(x + 2)$
g	$(x + 3)(x - 4)$	h $(x - 2)(x + 1)$
j	$(x - 4)(3x - 2)$	k $(4x - 3)(4x + 3)$
	c $(2x + 1)^2$	f $(x + 3)(x + 4)$
	i $(2x + 1)(x + 1)$	l $(x - 2)(x + 2)$

3) Expand and simplify		
a $(2a + 1)(a - 3)$	b $(4d + 3e)(d + 2e)$	c $(2 - x)(3 - 4x)$
d $(8 - 7w)(8w - 7)$	e $(3l - 5)(3l + 5)$	f $(3x + 4)^2$
g $(2h + 5)(2h - 7)$	h $(5x + 7)(2x - 3)$	i $(2x + 1)(3x + 4)$
j $(2 - 7x)(2 + 7x)$	k $(2y - 3)^2$	l $(b^2 + 4)(4 - b^2)$
m $(x - 1)^3$	n $(a^{\frac{1}{2}} - b^{\frac{1}{2}})(a^{\frac{1}{2}} + b^{\frac{1}{2}})$	
4) Given that, $f(x) = x^2 + 3x - 1$, and $g(x) = x^3 - 2x^2 + 5$, find		
a $f(x) + g(x)$	b $f(x) - g(x)$	c $f(x)g(x)$
d $(x + 1)f(x)$	e $(f(x))^2$	f $3xf(x) - 2g(x)$
5) If $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are polynomials of degree 7 and 8 respectively, state the degree of		
a $f(x) + g(x)$	b $(f(x))^2$	c $f(x)g(x)$
6) Find the coefficient of the x^2 term in these expansions. (Do not work out all the terms.)		
a $(x^2 + 2x - 1)(x^2 + 3x + 4)$	b $(2x^2 - x + 4)(x^2 + x + 3)$	
c $(x^3 - 2x + 2)(4x^2 + 3x - 1)$	d $(4 - x - x^2)(2 + x - x^2)$	
7) Given that $f(x) = 3x^2 - x + 2$, and $g(x) = 7x^4 - 2x^3 + x^2 + 1$, find		
a $f(x) + g(x)$	b $f(x) - 2g(x)$	c $f(x)g(x)$
		d $x^3f(x) + xg(x)$
8) Find the coefficient of the x^3 term in these expansions.		
a $(x^4 + 3x^2 - 2x + 1)(x^3 - 2x^2 + x - 7)$		
b $(2x^3 - x^2 + 5x - 4)(-x^3 + 4x^2 + 2x + 1)$		
9) Expand and simplify		
a $(7x^2 + 5x - 1)(6x^3 - 3x^2 + 2x + 4)$	b $(x^2 + 2xy + y^2)(x^2 - 2xy + y^2)$	
c $(y^3 + 3y^2 - 2y - 2)(4y^4 - 2y + 7)$	d $(u^3 + v^2 - 2w)^2$	
e $(3xy + 1)(2x^2 - 3y)$	f $(2x + 1)(3x - 1)(2x + 7)$	