

Topic: Algebra

Topic/Skill	Definition/Tips	Example
1. Expression	A mathematical statement written using symbols, numbers or letters,	$3x + 2$ or $5y^2$
2. Equation	A statement showing that two expressions are equal	$2y - 17 = 15$
3. Identity	An equation that is true for all values of the variables An identity uses the symbol: \equiv	$2x \equiv x+x$
4. Formula	Shows the relationship between two or more variables	Area of a rectangle = length x width or $A = L \times W$
5. Simplifying Expressions	Collect 'like terms'. Be careful with negatives. x^2 and x are not like terms.	$2x + 3y + 4x - 5y + 3$ $= 6x - 2y + 3$ $3x + 4 - x^2 + 2x - 1 = 5x - x^2 + 3$
6. x times x	The answer is x^2 not $2x$.	Squaring is multiplying by itself, not by 2.
7. $p \times p \times p$	The answer is p^3 not $3p$	If $p=2$, then $p^3=2 \times 2 \times 2=8$, not $2 \times 3=6$
8. $p + p + p$	The answer is $3p$ not p^3	If $p=2$, then $2+2+2=6$, not $2^3 = 8$
9. Expand	To expand a bracket, multiply each term in the bracket by the expression outside the bracket.	$3(m + 7) = 3m + 21$
10. Factorise	The reverse of expanding. Factorising is writing an expression as a product of terms by ' taking out ' a common factor.	$6x - 15 = 3(2x - 5)$, where 3 is the common factor.