

# CONCEPTUAL RETROSPECTIVE: NUMBER SENSE AND ALGEBRA

1. Complete the following statements:

Two algebraic expressions are said to be **equivalent** if \_\_\_\_\_

The following is an example of two equivalent expressions: \_\_\_\_\_

2. The expressions  $2x$  and  $x^2$  are **not equivalent**. Show this in the following ways.

(a)  $2x$  **means** \_\_\_\_\_

while  $x^2$  **means** \_\_\_\_\_.

For example, if  $x = -7$ ,

$$2x = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\text{and } x^2 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}.$$

(b)  $2x$  **means** \_\_\_\_\_ groups of \_\_\_\_\_ while

$x^2$  **means** \_\_\_\_\_ groups of \_\_\_\_\_.

For example, if  $x = 4$ ,  $2x = 2(4)$ , which means

\_\_\_\_\_ groups of \_\_\_\_\_ and  $x^2 = 4^2 = (4)(4)$ ,

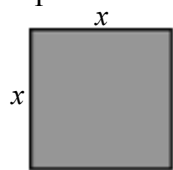
which means \_\_\_\_\_ groups of \_\_\_\_\_.

- (c) Complete the table. Then draw conclusions by completing the statement to the right of the table.

$x$	$2x$	$x^2$
-5		
-4		
-3		
-2		
-1		
0		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

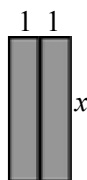
From the table, we can see that  $2x$  and  $x^2$  agree **only when**  $x = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$  and when  $x = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ . For all other values of  $x$ ,  $2x$  and  $x^2$  \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore,  $2x$  and  $x^2$  **cannot be** \_\_\_\_\_.

- (d) A picture of  $x^2$  could look like the following:



This picture can represent  $x^2$  because \_\_\_\_\_

On the other hand, a picture of  $2x$  could look like the following:



This picture can represent  $2x$  because \_\_\_\_\_

From these pictures we must conclude that  $2x$  and  $x^2$  are **not equivalent** because \_\_\_\_\_

3. Using both a **logical argument** and **pictures**, explain why  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \neq \frac{2}{5}$ . Then complete the statement.

(a) **Logical Argument**

(b) **Pictures**

Whenever I **add** or **subtract fractions**, I must always remember to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 because \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. First complete the statements found below. Then *evaluate* the expression shown at the right. Show all steps!

$$\frac{-2[4^2 - 3(-7)^2] - (3^2 - 2^4)}{-6^2 + (-6)^2 + 3(-7)(-8) - 4(3 - 7)}$$

Whenever I *evaluate expressions*, I must always remember:

1. *Adding* and *subtracting* involve \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. *Multiplying* and *dividing* involve \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I *should not* use the \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I *should* use \_\_\_\_\_ so that I'll know how to apply the operations in the correct \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I *should* separate the expression into \_\_\_\_\_.

5. First complete the statements found below. Then *substitute* the given values into the expression shown at the right and *evaluate*. Show all steps!

$$\frac{-a^2 + 3ab^3 - 6ab^2}{(a - b)(a + b)}, \quad a = 4, \quad b = -\frac{1}{2}$$

Whenever I *substitute values into expressions*, I must:

1. Replace the *variables* with empty \_\_\_\_\_, taking care to ensure that \_\_\_\_\_ are not changed and exponents remain the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Then the given values should be inserted into the empty \_\_\_\_\_, taking care to ensure that the correct values are used.
3. Finally, the resulting expression should be \_\_\_\_\_ using \_\_\_\_\_ and keeping in mind all the points made in question \_\_\_\_\_.

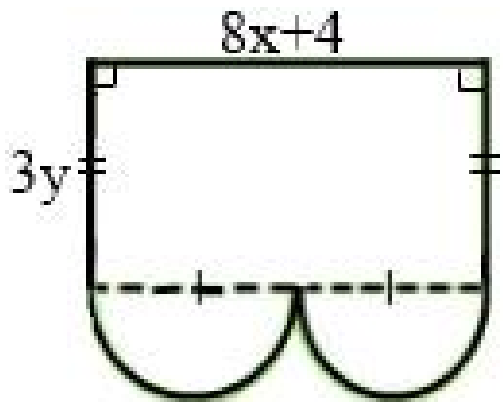
6. First complete the statements found below. Then **simplify** the expression shown at the right. Show all steps!

$$\frac{(-ab^2)^3(-2a^2b)^4}{(2a)^{-3}} - 2a^5b^3(3a^9b^7 - 6a^{-3}b^{-3}) - (a-b)(2a+7b)$$

Whenever I **simplify expressions**, I must remember:

- When **adding** and **subtracting expressions**, I must \_\_\_\_\_.  
I should add the opposite **only when** \_\_\_\_\_.
- When **multiplying** and **dividing expressions**, I must put \_\_\_\_\_ together and use the laws of \_\_\_\_\_. In addition, if I multiply a monomial by a polynomial with two or more (unlike) terms, I should use the \_\_\_\_\_.
- I **must never confuse** addition and subtraction with multiplication and division. For example,  
 $x^2 + x^2 =$  \_\_\_\_\_ but  $x^2(x^2) =$  \_\_\_\_\_

7. **Write expressions** for the area and perimeter of the following shape.



8. Complete the following table. By doing so *correctly*, you will demonstrate your understanding of how basic mathematical principles can be used to *justify* or *refute assertions*.

Assertion	True or False?	If the assertion is true, justify it. If it is false, refute it. Then provide a correction.
$(-3xy^3)^2$ $= (-3)^2 (x^2)(y^3)^2$ $= 9x^2y^6$	True	$\begin{aligned} &(-3xy^3)^2 \\ &= (-3xy^3)(-3xy^3) \\ &= (-3)(-3)xy^3y^3 \\ &= 9xyyyyy \\ &= 9x^2y^6 \end{aligned}$ <p><i>Expanded form</i> can always be used to verify a simplification performed by using laws of exponents. Although expanded form makes the simplification more time-consuming, it has the advantage of relying only on very basic principles such as the <i>meaning</i> of mathematical operations.</p>
$2a + 3a = 5a^2$	False	<p>When like terms are added/subtracted, the coefficients must be added/subtracted but the variable part <i>must not change</i>. Thus, <math>2a + 3a</math> simplifies to <math>5a</math>, which is analogous to stating that 2 apples plus 3 apples is 5 apples. To strengthen the argument, we can use a <i>counterexample</i> as shown below.</p> <p>Suppose that <math>a = 2</math>. Then <math>2a + 3a = 2(2) + 3(2) = 4 + 6 = 10</math> but <math>5a^2 = 5(2)^2 = 5(4) = 20</math>. Since we can confidently assert that <math>10 \neq 20</math>, this example <i>proves</i> that <math>2a + 3a</math> <i>is not</i> equivalent to <math>5a^2</math>.</p>
$(3x + y^3)^2$ $= (3x)^2 + (y^3)^2$ $= 9x^2 + y^6$		
$2(x+3)(x+5)$ $= (2x+6)(2x+10)$ $= 4x^2 + 32x + 60$		
$2(x+3)(x+5)$ $= (2x+6)(x+5)$ $= 2x^2 + 16x + 30$		
$-2(-3c^7d^{-4}) + 2(3c^7d^{-4})$ $= 6c^7d^{-4} + 6c^7d^{-4}$ $= (6)(6)c^7c^7d^{-4}d^{-4}$ $= \frac{36c^{14}}{d^8}$		
$3[5 - 4(7)]^2$ $= 3(5)^2 - 3[4(7)]^2$ $= 75 - 2352$ $= -2277$		