

Lesson 6-1 → Introduction to Combining Like Terms

A few definitions:

$$5x + 4y + 3x + 2$$

coefficient      variable      constant (no variable)

$$5x + 4y + 3x + 2$$

term      term      term      term

"Like Terms" have same variable

Whole thing is an "expression"

## RULES!

1. Only like terms can be added to or subtracted from each other
2. The sign to the Left governs the term

For Example:

$$4x + y - 6x + 7y$$

$$\equiv \text{ooooo} \equiv \text{ooooo}$$

Grab  
Sign  
to  
the  
LEFT  
←

$$4x - 6x$$

$$\underbrace{\quad\quad}_- -2x$$

$$+y + 7y$$

$$\underbrace{\quad\quad}_+ +8y$$

$$\textcircled{-2x + 8y}$$