

9-6 Perfect Squares and Factoring (Pages 508—514)

Products of the form $(a + b)^2$ and $(a - b)^2$ are called perfect squares, and their expressions are called **perfect square trinomials**.

Perfect Square Trinomials	$(a + b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$ $(a - b)^2 = a^2 - 2ab + b^2$
Factoring a Perfect Square Trinomial	<p>You can check whether a trinomial is a perfect square trinomial by checking that the following conditions are satisfied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first term is a perfect square. • The third term is a perfect square. • The middle term is either 2 or -2 times the product of the square root of the first term and the square root of the third term.

Example

Determine whether $4x^2 + 4xy + y^2$ is a perfect square trinomial. If so, factor it.

Check each of the following.

- Is the first term a perfect square? $4x^2 \stackrel{?}{=} (2x)^2$ yes
- Is the last term a perfect square? $y^2 \stackrel{?}{=} (y)^2$ yes
- Is the middle term twice the product of $2x$ and y ? $4xy = 2(2x)(y)$ yes

So, $4x^2 + 4xy + y^2$ is a perfect square trinomial.

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

Practice

Determine whether each trinomial is a perfect square trinomial. If so, factor it. If the polynomial cannot be factored write *prime*.

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|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. $m^2 - 6m + 9$ | 2. $x^2 + 10x + 25$ | 3. $t^2 - 14t + 49$ |
| 4. $x^2 + 3x + 4$ | 5. $y^2 - 12y + 36$ | 6. $k^2 - 22k + 121$ |

Factor each polynomial. If the polynomial cannot be factored write *prime*.

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|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7. $x^2 + 16x + 64$ | 8. $2q^2 + 30q - 8$ | 9. $x^2 + 3x + 9$ |
| 10. $4m^2 + 20m + 25$ | 11. $100h^2 - 9$ | 12. $4z^3 - 16z^2 + 16z$ |
| 13. $3x^2 + 24x + 48$ | 14. $n^2 + 1.8n + 0.81$ | 15. $7x^2 - 5.6x + 1.12$ |

16. Factor $\frac{1}{9}y^2 + 4y + 36$. (Hint: Check to see if the trinomial is a perfect square trinomial.)

17. **Standardized Test Practice** Factor the trinomial $5a^2 + 30a + 45$.

- A $(5a + 3)^2$ B $5(a + 3)$ C $(a + 3)^2$ D $5(a + 3)^2$

Answers: 1. $(m + 5)^2$ 2. $(x + 5)^2$ 3. $(t - 7)^2$ 4. prime 5. $(y - 6)^2$ 6. $(k - 11)^2$ 7. $(x + 8)^2$ 8. $2(q^2 + 15q - 4)$ 9. prime 10. $(2m + 5)^2$ 11. $(10h - 3)(10h + 3)$ 12. $4z(4z^2 - 2z + 1)$ 13. $3(x + 4)^2$ 14. $(n + 0.9)^2$ 15. $7(x + 0.4)^2$ 16. $(\frac{1}{3}y + 6)^2$ 17. D