

Lesson 8: Difference of Squares

Recall:

Simplify the following

$$\text{eg) } (x-5)(x+5) = \underline{x^2 + 5x - 5x - 25} = \boxed{x^2 - 25}$$

$$(x-3)(x+3) = \underline{x^2 + 3x - 3x - 9} = \boxed{x^2 - 9}$$

$$(2x-3)(2x+3) = \underline{4x^2 + 6x - 6x - 9} = \boxed{4x^2 - 9}$$

In these examples, we have expanded a product of 2 binomials to form a pattern called:

difference of squares.

In general:

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

A difference of squares binomial occurs where both terms in the binomial are being subtracted and each term is a perfect square.

What is a perfect square?

1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49...

So, expressions that look like:

$$a^2 - b^2 \quad \text{factor into} \quad (a-b)(a+b)$$

Ex. Factor the following:

a)  $x^2 - 49$

$$x^2 - 7^2 = (x-7)(x+7)$$

b)  $4a^2 - 9b^2$

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

c)  $5x^2 - 125y^2 = 5(x^2 - 25y^2)$

$$= 5(x^2 - (5y)^2) = 5(x-5y)(x+5y)$$

d)  $7x^2 - 7a^2 = 7(x^2 - a^2)$

$$= 7(x-a)(x+a)$$

e)  $8 - 50a^2b^2$

$$= 2(4 - 25a^2b^2)$$

$$= 2(2^2 - (5ab)^2) = 2(2-5ab)(2+5ab)$$

f)  $x^2 + 25$

not factorable!

a)  $2x^2 - 5xy + 2y^2$  decomposition

$$= 2x^2 - 4xy - xy + 2y^2$$

$$= 2x(x-2y) - y(x-2y)$$

$$= (x-2y)(2x-y)$$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} x & + \\ 4 & -5 \end{array}$$

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Factor!

1)  $x^2 - 25$

\_\_\_\_\_

2)  $a^2 - 64$

\_\_\_\_\_

3)  $n^2 - 100$

\_\_\_\_\_

4)  $25n^2 - 100$

\_\_\_\_\_

5)  $4m^2 - 9$

\_\_\_\_\_

6)  $400r^2 - 49$

\_\_\_\_\_

7)  $9r^2 - 1$

\_\_\_\_\_

8)  $4x^2 - b^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

9)  $16x^2 - 9b^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

10)  $m^2 - n^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

11)  $25x^2 - 144$

\_\_\_\_\_

12)  $4x^2 - z^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

13)  $121a^2 - 36z^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

14)  $1 - 25x^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

15)  $1 - k^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

16)  $8x^2 - 32$

\_\_\_\_\_

17)  $3x^2 - 27a^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

18)  $7x^2 - 7a^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

19)  $2x^2 - 50$

\_\_\_\_\_

20)  $3x^2 - 12y^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

21)  $10x^2 - 640$

\_\_\_\_\_

22)  $8 - 50a^2b^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

23)  $xy^2 - x^3$

\_\_\_\_\_

24)  $20a^2b^2 - 5a^4b^4$

\_\_\_\_\_

25)  $a^2 - a^2b^2$

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Factor!

1)  $x^2 - 25$

$(x+5)(x-5)$

15)  $1 - k^2$

$(1-k)(1+k)$

2)  $a^2 - 64$

\_\_\_\_\_

16)  $8x^2 - 32$

\_\_\_\_\_

3)  $n^2 - 100$

$(n+10)(n-10)$

17)  $3x^2 - 27a^2$

$\frac{3(x^2 - 9a^2)}{3(x+3a)(x-3a)}$

4)  $25n^2 - 100$

\_\_\_\_\_

18)  $7x^2 - 7a^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

5)  $4m^2 - 9$

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

19)  $2x^2 - 50$

$\frac{2(x^2 - 25)}{2(x+5)(x-5)}$

6)  $400r^2 - 49$

\_\_\_\_\_

20)  $3x^2 - 12y^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

7)  $9r^2 - 1$

$(3r-1)(3r+1)$

21)  $10x^2 - 640$

$\frac{10(x^2 - 64)}{10(x+8)(x-8)}$

8)  $4x^2 - b^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

22)  $8 - 50a^2b^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

9)  $16x^2 - 9b^2$

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

23)  $xy^2 - x^3$

$\frac{x(y^2 - x^2)}{x(y+x)(y-x)}$

10)  $m^2 - n^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

24)  $20a^2b^2 - 5a^4b^4$

\_\_\_\_\_

11)  $25x^2 - 144$

$(5x-12)(5x+12)$

25)  $a^2 - a^2b^2$

$(a-ab)(a+ab)$

12)  $4x^2 - z^2$

\_\_\_\_\_

13)  $121a^2 - 36z^2$

$(11a-6z)(11a+6z)$

14)  $1 - 25x^2$

\_\_\_\_\_