

CHAPTER 3 Polynomials
3.5 Collect Like Terms
Identifying Like Terms

Example:

a) Identify which of the following are like terms: $3x$, $3xy$, $3xy^2$, $8xy^2$, $5x^2y$, $2yx^2$.

b) Identify which of the following are like terms: $2b^3$, $2b^2$, $2b$, 2 .

Solution:

a) $3xy^2$ and $8xy^2$ are like terms. $5x^2y$ and $2yx^2$ are like terms.

b) None of these are like terms.

Practice:

1. Identify which of the following are like terms: $3r^2s$, $2sr^2$, $5s^2r^2$, $-4r^2s$.

2. Identify which of the following are like terms: $-5p^2q^3$, $3p^3q^2$, $8q^2p^3$, $7pq$.

Answers:

1. $3r^2s$, $2sr^2$, and $-4r^2s$.

2. $3p^3q^2$, and $8q^2p^3$.