# Adding and Subtracting Polynomials

#### *MathLinks 9*, pages 190–199

# **Suggested Timing**

100–120 minutes

#### Materials

• concrete materials, such as algebra tiles

#### **Blackline Masters**

Master 11 Algebra Tiles (Positive Tiles) Master 12 Algebra Tiles (Negative Tiles) BLM 5–3 Chapter 5 Warm-Up BLM 5–9 Section 5.3 Extra Practice BLM 5–10 Section 5.3 Math Link

#### **Mathematical Processes**

- Communication (C)
- Connections (CN)
- Mental Math and Estimation (ME)
- Problem Solving (PS)
- Reasoning (R)
- Technology (T)
- Visualization (V)

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**Specific Outcomes PR6** Model, record and explain the operations of addition and subtraction of polynomial expressions, concretely, pictorially and symbolically (limited to polynomials of degree less than or equal to 2).

Category	Question Numbers
Essential (minimum questions to cover the outcomes)	#1–3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, Math Link
Typical	#1–3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16–20, 24, Math Link
Extension/Enrichment	#1-4, 13, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26-30

# **Planning Notes**

Have students complete the warm-up questions on **BLM 5–3 Chapter 5 Warm-Up** to reinforce material learned in previous sections.

As a class, read the opening paragraph for this section. Ask students what they know about patterns and how patterns can be represented by expressions. Encourage students to recall the work they did in grade 8 with linear equations.



# **Explore Adding or Subtracting Polynomial Expressions**

In this exploration, students use arithmetic and algebraic operations to solve problems to do with renting musical instruments. Students are required to add and subtract polynomial expressions. Students are not told what methods to use. However, students might model their expressions using algebra tiles and then combine like terms to simplify their expressions.

**Method 1** Complete #1 as a class, eliciting responses from students. Then, have students work in small groups to complete #2 to 6. Have each small group present their findings relating to #6.

**Method 2** Have students work in pairs. Circulate as students work on this Explore. If students are having difficulty, you may wish to ask:

• What variable did you use in #1? What does your variable represent? (Students should indicate that their variable represents the number of months the drum kit is rented.)

- What arithmetic operations do you need to find the answer in #1a) or #2a)?
- What is the thought bubble advising you to do? Why can you do this?
- Do the expressions in #1b) and 2b) use the same operations? Show me where/how?
- Why do you think models (algebra tiles) were not required in the Explore? (A large quantity of algebra tiles would be required.)
- In #4, what is the difference in the deposit for drums and the guitar? What is the difference between monthly charges? How do these differences help you find a simple expression for the difference?

#### **Meeting Student Needs**

• It may be better for your class for you to work through the Explore as a whole-class activity.

#### ELL

- Teach the following terms in context: *rents*, *deposit*, and *electric guitar*.
- Encourage students to write their answers in their first language to activate prior knowledge, and then to translate into English.

#### Answers

#### Explore Adding or Subtracting Polynomial Expressions

- **1.** a) \$195 b) 55n + 30, where *n* represents the number of months
- **2.** a) \$86 b) 22n + 20
- **3.** (55n + 30) + (22n + 20) = (55n + 22n) + (30 + 20) = 77n + 50
- **4.** (55n + 30) (22n + 20) = (55n 22n) + (30 20) = 33n + 10
- **5.** a) Add or subtract the coefficients of the like terms, and add or subtract the constants.
  - **b)** Example: Without the same variable, there would not be any like terms containing variables to simplify.
- **6.** Example: A motorboat rents for \$200/h plus a \$500 deposit. A canoe rents for \$35/h plus a \$20 deposit. The total cost of renting both the motorboat and the canoe is (200n + 500) + (35n + 20) = 235n + 520. The difference in cost for renting a motorboat and a canoe is

(200n + 500) - (35n + 20) = 165n + 480.

Assessment	Supporting Learning
Assessment as Learning	
Reflect and Check Listen as students discuss #4 in the Explore, and encourage them to generalize their findings. Check responses for conceptual understandings.	<ul> <li>Help students explore the concept using other items that could be rented such as a stereo system, television, or laptop.</li> <li>Show that the expressions in #3 and #4 are quite similar and that you simplify the expressions by combining like terms.</li> <li>Holding a class discussion about #5 would be beneficial. It would allow students to compare results and verbalize their thinking.</li> <li>Students should complete #6 and have their partner either complete the problem or have their partner check their work.</li> </ul>





# Link the Ideas

# Example 1

This example illustrates the use of algebra tiles to model polynomial addition. Reinforce that the example uses a familiar problem-solving strategy (Model It). Ask students what other strategy they could use (Draw a Diagram). You may also want to remind student that there are other ways of modelling equations. Diagrams are one such model. Perhaps have students create diagrams to model and solve the equations in the examples.

Emphasize the relationship between the algebra tiles used. Encourage students to use symbols concurrently with their tile models. Perhaps have students set up the two methods side by side.

Have students complete the Show You Know. Students could do part a) using an algebra-tile model, and then check using symbols. Then, do part b) using symbols, and check using an algebra-tile model.

# Example 2

This example uses models and symbols to introduce the concept of opposite term. The solutions again show the use of a familiar problem-solving strategy (Model It) involving algebra tiles. Emphasize that opposite expressions combine to give zero. This reintroduces the idea of a zero pair. Connect this to the idea of zero pairs in integers and fractions. You may wish to ask questions, such as the following:

- When in your mathematics learning has the word *opposite* appeared previously?
- Is the term 3x positive or negative?
- What operation symbol or sign precedes 3 in the expression 3*x*?
- What is the opposite of this sign?
- How many terms are in the expression 4x 1?
- What is the opposite of each term in 4x 1? What is the opposite expression?

Rather than spending considerable time going over each part of Example 2, you might have a brief discussion about parts a) and b) and then work through part c). Then, students could attempt part d) on their own. If they have no difficulty, they should proceed to the Show You Know.



## **Example 3**

The example shows subtraction of polynomials using models and by adding the opposite. Encourage students to discuss other times they have subtracted in mathematics. Make the connection to the subtraction of integers, and talk about how it could be interpreted as "adding the opposite." With this fresh in students' memories, point out the first thought bubble on page 194. Have students model the question by adding the opposite. This may be easier than the take-away model shown in Method 1. Some questions you could ask are:

- What does a model for 2x + 3 look like? Show me.
- How is a model of the opposite of 2x + 3 different? Show me.
- What does a model for 3x 4 look like?
- Combine like terms using models for 3x 4 and the opposite of 2x + 3.

Encourage students to think of Method 2 as a way to eliminate the parentheses from the question, and then to combine like terms as in section 5.2

# **Key Ideas**

Encourage students to write in their Foldable their own summary for section 5.3 prior to looking at the Key Ideas in the student resource. Then, have students compare their summaries with other students and with those in the student resource.

#### **Meeting Student Needs**

- It may be better for your class for you to teach this section over two periods.
- Consider first focusing on Example 1 and the related questions from the Check Your Understanding. Then, encourage students who are not having any difficulty to proceed to Examples 2 and 3 on their own.
- Depending on your class, it may be beneficial to your students to work through the Examples as a whole-class activity. Where appropriate, assign the first question or two of the Show You Know as a small-group or pairs activity. Then, have students complete the rest individually.
- Students often find addition to be easier than subtraction of polynomials. Work with them on only addition questions until they feel comfortable. Then, move on to subtraction.
- Model for students to show that all subtraction questions can be changed to "adding the opposite."



#### **Gifted and Enrichment**

For question #18, you could have students check the pricing for renting similar equipment in their community. Have them complete the question using the figures they researched.

#### **Common Errors**

- Some students may not know the correct zero pairs to introduce when modelling subtraction with algebra tiles.
- $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{x}}$  Prior to Method 1, introduce the concept of subtracting by adding the opposite. That way, students may then combine like terms using models as in section 5.2.
- Some students may miss a term when writing the opposite expression.
- $R_x$  Emphasize that each term of the polynomial must be expressed as an opposite. To clarify, indicate that a polynomial and its opposite always combine to zero. Demonstrate with models.

#### Answers

#### Example 1: Show You Know

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a) (2a - 1) + (6 - 4a) = 2a - 1 + 6 - 4a = -2a + 5
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Rewrite the model as -2a + 5. Group together like terms and remove zero models.

**b)**  $(3t^2 - 5t) + (t^2 + 2t + 1) = 3t^2 - 5t + t^2 + 2t + 1 = 4t^2 - 3t + 1$ 









Group together like terms and remove zero models. Rewrite the model as  $4t^2 - 3t + 1$ .

#### Example 2: Show You Know

a) -x; x + (-x) = 0b) -5 + 3x; 5 - 3x + (-5 + 3x) = 0c)  $-7x^2 - 5x + 1$ ;  $7x^2 + 5x - 1 + (-7x^2 - 5x + 1) = 0$ 

#### **Example 3: Show You Know**

**a)** 3*x* - 5



Assessment	Supporting Learning
Assessment for Learning	
<b>Example 1</b> Have students do the Show You Know related to Example 1.	<ul> <li>Encourage students to verbalize their thinking.</li> <li>You may wish to have students work with a partner.</li> <li>During class discussions, have students model how to solve the problems. Encourage students to explain in simple language what they did in each step.</li> <li>As students complete their models, have them generalize to symbols before moving on to the next question.</li> <li>Encourage students to model all questions using actual algebra tiles. If algebra tiles are not available, provide students with Master 11 Algebra Tiles (Positive Tiles) and Master 12 Algebra Tiles (Negative Tiles). Ensure that all students understand the relationship between the algebra-tile model and the symbolic approach.</li> </ul>
<b>Example 2</b> Have students do the Show You Know related to Example 2.	<ul> <li>Encourage students to verbalize their thinking.</li> <li>You may wish to have students work with a partner.</li> <li>Remind students of the importance of quickly identifying the number of terms in an expression.</li> <li>Once students understand the concept of opposite polynomials, it is not necessary for students to continue using models to justify that two expressions are opposites. Simply let students use models as a method of finding opposite terms.</li> <li>Make sure that students understand that they are finding the opposite of each term in the expression. The new expression + the old expression can be checked by adding like terms and obtaining an answer of zero.</li> </ul>
<b>Example 3</b> Have students do the Show You Know related to Example 3.	<ul> <li>Encourage students to verbalize their thinking.</li> <li>You may wish to have students work with a partner.</li> <li>Show students that they can check subtraction using addition (a - b = c can be checked using the addition c + b = a). This technique is preferable to repeating the subtraction.</li> <li>Some students find it easier to change the question from subtraction by adding the opposite before using either models or symbols.</li> <li>Remind students that they are adding the opposite of each of the terms, not just the first, which is a common mistake.</li> </ul>



# **Check Your Understanding**

## **Communicate the Ideas**

Have students work individually to answer #2 and 3. Then, have a brief class discussion following the individual work time. Draw out conceptual issues relating to opposite expressions and how they are helpful when subtracting. Then, students may complete #1.

Some students may find #4 difficult because they cannot quickly think of a reasonable situation matching the given expressions. (One idea is that Tom has a number of baseball cards with a value of 3x + 2, and Tanya has cards worth 5x - 1, where *x* is the number of cards.) You may wish to have students work with a partner on this question.

#### **Practise**

Students benefit from making choices so you may wish to let students choose one question from each of the following similar pairs of questions: #6 and 7, #8 and 9, #10 and 11, and #14 and 15. Students who feel they can make choices tend to take more responsibility for their homework assignments.

# Apply

Have students complete #16, and then have them select #18 or 20. Alternatively, assign your choice of questions.

Question #17 is a different way to ask students to add a number of polynomials. Note that if a student gets the value in the top block correct, the other blocks must also be correct. This makes it easy to check students' solutions quickly.

Questions #23 and 24 include diagrams and may benefit visual learners.

# Extend

Questions #26 to 29 are applications similar to those found in Apply. In #28, students must realize that Profit = revenues - expenses.

Question #30 follows a pattern: each pair of terms combines to give x (2x - x = x, 4x - 3x = x, 6x - 5x = x, etc.). To find the final answer, students need to find the correct number of terms (1004) and multiply that number by x (1004x).



This Math Link gives students an opportunity to explore an easy number trick to see if they can use algebra to help them explain it.

The following number trick is more difficult since it involves multiplying and dividing. You may wish to use it as enrichment or after studying Chapter 7.

- 1. Pick any number.
- **2.** Add 3.
- **3.** Multiply your result by 10.
- 4. Multiply your result by your original number.
- 5. Subtract 10.
- **6.** Divide by 10.
- 7. Add 1.
- **8.** Divide by your original number.
- **9.** Subtract 3 from the number.
- 10. Subtract your original number.
- What is the answer?

# **Meeting Student Needs**

- Consider having students add an oval to their concept map and label it *opposite term*. Have them discuss with a partner the information needed to complete this oval. You might also wish to have them record methods for determining opposite expressions.
- Provide **BLM 5–9 Section 5.3 Extra Practice** to students who would benefit from more practice.
- Consider having students work in pairs. They might work on one question together and then work individually on the next one. Ensure that each student completes a number of questions individually.
- Students should be able to add/subtract polynomials using more than one method. If some students restrict themselves to only one method, ask them to provide two methods for solving a specific question.

### ELL

Teach the following terms in context: *claims*, *machinery*, *rented*, *contractors*, *backhoe*, *bulldozer*, *flat rate*, *print n copies of a book*, *ship*, *business cards*, *frame* (for a picture), *carbon dioxide test kits*, *sewing*, and *trim strip*.



#### **Gifted and Enrichment**

- Ask students to investigate the development of polynomials for real-life applications.
- Have students complete question #18 using data they research in their community.
- Encourage students to go online and view mathematics involving polynomials in a language they are unfamiliar with. Challenge them to see how much of the text they can understand using the language of algebra only.
- For question #28, discuss what aspects of air quality might be monitored. For example, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, mould, asbestos, etc. Have students research the types of air quality issues that can exist in a home. This can be a particularly interesting discussion in light of allergies, sick building syndrome, and the risks involved with doing home renovations.

### **Common Errors**

- Some students may use only symbolic methods to add/subtract polynomials.
- $R_x$  Require students to use two methods of solution. Most students will use one symbol method and one diagram/model method, rather than figuring out two symbol methods.
- Some students may consistently make mistakes in subtraction questions when they "add the opposite."
- R<sub>x</sub> Show students another way to deal with the negative subtraction sign before the second polynomial. You may wish to have students distribute the negative sign using the distributive property:

$$-(3x - 1) = -(3x) - (-1)$$
  
= -3x + 1

#### Answers

#### Communicate the Ideas

**1.** Jeanette is correct. Example:  $(3x^2 - 5x) - (4 - 2x)$  simplifies to  $3x^2 - 3x - 4$ , which has three terms.

**2.** 
$$x^2 - 2x + 3$$



Example: Symbols may be preferred because you can visualize changing signs without the need for diagrams.

- **3.** There should be a negative coefficient on the  $x^2$ -term in the final answer. The final answer should be  $-5x^2 x + 12$ .
- **4.** Example: 3x + 2 represents the length of a driveway and 5x 1 represents the width of the driveway. The expression (3x + 2) + (5x 1) represents half the perimeter of the driveway.

#### Math Link

a) Divide the number in the last step by 2.

- **b)** 2(n + 5) = 2n + 10. When 10 is subtracted, the result is 2n, and 2n divided by 2 is n.
- c) Example: The following trick always results in the number 3.

• Choose a number from 1 to 20.	n
- D 1-1 - 14	2

• Double it.	2n
• Add six.	2n + 6

- Divide by two. n+3
- Subtract the number you originally started with. n + 3 n

Assessment	Supporting Learning
Assessment as Learning	
<b>Communicate the Ideas</b> Have all students complete #1–3. Check students' responses for understanding.	<ul> <li>Encourage students to verbalize their thinking.</li> <li>You may wish to have students work with a partner.</li> <li>In #2, check whether students identify the given expression as having three terms and then emphasize that to find an opposite expression, it is necessary to give the opposite of each of its terms.</li> <li>Check each student's response to #3 to see where they identified errors in the given solution. This shows if students can correctly combine like terms.</li> <li>Have students who finish quickly work on #4 with a partner. Only students who have a good understanding of polynomials should be assigned #4.</li> </ul>
Assessment for Learning	
<b>Practise and Apply</b> Have students do questions #5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and #16–18. Students who have no problems with these questions can go on to the remaining Apply questions.	<ul> <li>Provide additional coaching for Example 1 to students who need help with #5 and 6. Remind them that with models for polynomials, each term has a separate representation and only like terms can be combined. Struggling and visual learners can be encouraged to identify the like terms by circling or boxing like values. Allow students to use algebra tiles if needed, but have them write the symbolic notation at the same time.</li> <li>Provide additional coaching for Example 2 to students who struggle with #8 and 10. Have them explain their thinking on these questions and then assign #9 and 11.</li> <li>#12 is a good opportunity for students to check their understanding when a choice of answers is presented. This question combines both the modeling and symbolic representations of opposites.</li> <li>Encourage students to solve the questions in #14 using several different methods. Reinforce the idea that alternative methods enhance conceptual understanding.</li> <li>#16 and 18 are basic questions allowing students to apply their understanding to problem situations. Remind students about the importance of using the same variable when representing the same value in two or more expressions. Review the concept of like terms if needed.</li> </ul>
Math Link The Math Link on page 199 is intended to help students work toward the chapter problem wrap-up titled Wrap It Up! on page 207.	<ul> <li>Students who need help getting started could use BLM 5–10 Section 5.3 Math Link, which provides scaffolding.</li> <li>It is recommended that all students complete the Math Link.</li> <li>Provide additional number tricks for students who are unable to find their own. Sources include puzzle books, airline magazines, and the Internet.</li> <li>Remind students not to pick a number trick or puzzle that is long or complex, since part of the task is to explain how the trick works using polynomial addition or subtraction.</li> </ul>
Assessment <i>as</i> Learning	
<ul> <li>Math Learning Log</li> <li>Have students respond to the following prompts:</li> <li>Two methods that can be used to add/ subtract polynomials are</li> <li>The addition and subtraction of polynomials are the same in the following ways</li> <li>The addition and subtraction of polynomials are different in the following ways</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Encourage students to use the What I Need to Work On section of their Foldable to note the concepts with which they continue to have difficulties.</li> <li>Depending on students' learning styles, have them provide oral or written answers.</li> <li>Encourage kinesthetic learners to use manipulatives and to draw diagrams as part of their solution strategies.</li> <li>Have students support their statements with examples and diagrams.</li> </ul>