

Simplifying Algebraic Expressions: Identifying Expressions That Can Be Simplified (Answer Sheet)



What does “can be simplified” mean?

A simplifiable expression is an expression that contains like terms that can be combined.

Example:  $3x + 5x$

Both terms have the same variable  $x$ , so the expression can be simplified.



Key Word

Simplify:

Make an expression shorter by collecting like terms

Example

Key Step: Make an expression shorter by collecting like terms

Expression:  $3x - y + 2x$

Can it be simplified?: yes

Why?  $3x$  and  $2x$  are like terms that can be combined.



Answers (Identifying Expressions that can be Simplified)

Circle the expressions that can be simplified.

|     |  Expressions |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) | $3x + 6x$                                                                                         |
| (2) | $4a + b$                                                                                          |
| (3) | $7h - 3h + 5$                                                                                     |
| (4) | $5t + s - 4$                                                                                      |
| (5) | $8d + 3 - 2d$                                                                                     |



Tip

Look for like terms.  
If an expression contains terms with the same variable, it can usually be simplified.