Expanding Brackets with Negatives – Worksheet 1

A negative sign outside the brackets changes the sign of every term inside the brackets.

Instruction: Multiply the negative number outside the bracket by each term inside.

1. **–3 (y + 2)**

Outside Number: ____
Inside Terms: ____ and ____
Multiply: -3 x y = _____
Multiply: -3 x 2 = _____

Expanded Form: (-3 x y) + (-3 x 2)
(___) + (___)
Answer: _____

2. **-4 (q + 2)**

Outside Number: ____
Inside Terms: ____ and ____
Multiply: -4 x q = _____
Multiply: -4 x 2 = _____

Expanded Form: (-4 x q) + (-4 x 2)
(___) + (___)
Answer: _____

3. **-7(a + 1)**

Outside Number: ____
Inside Terms: ____ and ____
Multiply: -7 x a = _____
Multiply: -7 x 1 = _____

Expanded Form: (-7 x a) + (-7 x 1)
(___) + (___)
Answer: _____

4. **-5(u - 2)**

Outside Number: ____
Inside Terms: ____ and ____
Multiply: -5 x u = _____
Multiply: -5 x -2 = _____

Expanded Form: (-5 x u) + (-5 x -2)
(___) + (___)
Answer: _____

5. **-2(g - 5)**

Outside Number: ____
Inside Terms: ____ and ____
Multiply: -2 x g = _____
Multiply: -2 x -5 = _____

Expanded Form: (-2 x g) + (-2 x -5)
(___) + (___)
Answer: _____

6. **-6(d - 2)**

Outside Number: ____
Inside Terms: ____ and ____
Multiply: -6 x d = _____
Multiply: -6 x -2 = _____

Expanded Form: (-6 x d) + (-6 x -2)
(___) + (___)
Answer: _____

Tip A negative number changes the sign of every term inside the brackets.

Example: **–2 (x - 4)**

Step 1: Find the negative sign outside the brackets = –2

Step 2: Find the terms inside the brackets = x and -4

Step 3: Change the sign of each term inside the brackets.

–2 (x - 4)
–2 × x = -2x
–2 × 4 = -8
Expanded Form: (-2 × x) + (-2 × -4)
(-2x) + (8)

Step 4: Write the answer = **–2x + 8**