

Like Terms: Identifying Expressions with Multiple Like Terms



What are expressions with multiple like terms?

Expressions with multiple like terms contain two or more terms that share the same variable.
Examples
 $3x + 5x + 2$
 $a + 4a + 7$
 $2m + m + 3m$
These expressions can be simplified by collecting like terms.



Key Words

Multiple Like Terms

An expression contains multiple like terms when the same variable appears more than once. These terms can be collected together.



Example

Key Step: Expressions with multiple like terms contain two or more terms that share the same variable.



Expression: $4x + 2x + y$

Like Terms: $4x$ and $2x$

Why? Both terms contain the variable x .



Let's Practice

Circle **Yes** if the expression contains multiple like terms.
Circle **No** if the expression does not contains multiple like terms.

	 Expressions	Yes / No
(1)	$x + 2x$	Yes / No
(2)	$a + b$	Yes / No
(3)	$3q + r + q$	Yes / No
(4)	$5x + 3y + z$	Yes / No
(5)	$3a + 2a + a + 5$	Yes / No



Tip

Look for variables that appear more than once.
If the same variable appears again, the expression contains like terms.