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Like Terms & the Basics of Polynomials

Warm-up Problems

1. Fill in the blanks:

$$8,943 = \underline{\quad} \times 1000 + \underline{\quad} \times 100 + \underline{\quad} \times 10 + \underline{\quad} \times 1$$

$$= \underline{\quad} \times 10^3 + \underline{\quad} \times 10^2 + \underline{\quad} \times 10 + \underline{\quad} \times 1$$

2. Fill in the blanks:

$$8,943 = \underline{\quad} \times 20^3 + \underline{\quad} \times 20^2 + \underline{\quad} \times 20 + \underline{\quad} \times 1$$

3. Gisella computed 342×23 as follows:

	300	40	2	
	6000	800	40	20
	900	120	6	3
6000				
1700				
		160		
			6	

Can you explain what she is doing? What is her final answer?

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Lesson Summary

A *monomial* is a polynomial expression generated using only the multiplication operator (\times). Thus, it does not contain $+$ or $-$ operators. Monomials are written with numerical factors multiplied together and variable or other symbols each occurring one time (using integer exponents to condense multiple instances of the same variable)

Examples:

A *polynomial* is the sum (or difference) of monomials.

Examples:

The *degree* of a monomial is the sum of the exponents of the variable symbols that appear in the monomial.

Examples:

The *degree* of a polynomial is the degree of the monomial term with the highest degree.

Examples:

To *simplify* a polynomial, distribute and combine *like terms* (terms with same variable expressions).

Examples:

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Classwork Problems

1. Celina says that each of the following expressions is actually a binomial in disguise:

- i. $5abc - 2a^2 + 6abc$
- ii. $5x^3 \cdot 2x^2 - 10x^4 + 3x^5 + 3x \cdot (-2)x^4$
- iii. $(t + 2)^2 - 4t$
- iv. $5(a - 1) - 10(a - 1) + 100(a - 1)$
- v. $(2\pi r - \pi r^2)r - (2\pi r - \pi r^2) \cdot 2r$

For example, she sees that the expression in (i) is algebraically equivalent to $11abc - 2a^2$, which is indeed a binomial. (She is happy to write this as $11abc + (-2)a^2$, if you prefer.)

Is she right about the remaining four expressions?

2. Janie writes a polynomial expression using only one variable, x , with degree 3. Max writes a polynomial expression using only one variable, x , with degree 7.
- a. What can you determine about the degree of the sum of Janie and Max's polynomials?
 - b. What can you determine about the degree of the difference of Janie and Max's polynomials?
3. Suppose Janie writes a polynomial expression using only one variable, x , with degree of 5 and Max writes a polynomial expression using only one variable, x , with degree of 5.
- a. What can you determine about the degree of the sum of Janie and Max's polynomials?
 - b. What can you determine about the degree of the difference of Janie and Max's polynomials?
4. The expression $10x^2 + 6x^3$ is the result of applying the distributive property to the expression $2x^2(5 + x)$. It is also the result of the applying the distributive property to $2(5x^2 + 3x^3)$ or to $x(10x + 6x^2)$, for example, or even to $1 \cdot (10x^2 + 6x^3)$!

For (i) to (x) below, write down an expression such that if you applied the distributive property to your expression it will give the result presented. Give interesting answers!

- i. $6a + 14a^2$
 - ii. $2x^4 + 2x^5 + 2x^{10}$
 - iii. $6z^2 - 15z$
 - iv. $z^2(a + b) + z^3(a + b)$
 - v. $\frac{3}{2}s^2 + \frac{1}{2}$
 - vi. $15p^3r^4 - 6p^2r^5 + 9p^4r^2 + 3\sqrt{2}p^3r^6$
 - vii. $(4x + 3)(x^2 + x^3) - (2x + 2)(x^2 + x^3)$
5. Sammy wrote a polynomial using only one variable, x , of degree 3. Myisha wrote a polynomial in the same variable of degree 5. What can you say about the degree of the product of Sammy and Myisha's polynomials?
6. Find a polynomial that, when multiplied by $2x^2 + 3x + 1$, gives the answer $2x^3 + x^2 - 2x - 1$.

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Skills Practice

1. Find each sum or difference by combining the parts that are alike.

a. $(2p + 4) + 5(p - 1) - (p + 7)$

b. $(7x^4 + 9x) - 2(x^4 + 13)$

c. $(6 - t - t^4) + (9t + t^4)$

d. $(5 - t^2) + 6(t^2 - 8) - (t^2 + 12)$

e. $(8x^3 + 5x) - 3(x^3 + 2)$

f. $(12x + 1) + 2(x - 4) - (x - 15)$

g. $(13x^2 + 5x) - 2(x^2 + 1)$

h. $(9 - t - t^2) - \frac{3}{2}(8t + 2t^2)$

i. $(4m + 6) - 12(m - 3) + (m + 2)$

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2. Use the distributive property to write each of the following expressions as the sum of monomials.

a. $3a(4 + a)$

b. $x(x + 2) + 1$

c. $\frac{1}{3}(12z + 18z^2)$

d. $4x(x^3 - 10)$

e. $(x - 4)(x + 5)$

f. $(2z - 1)(3z^2 + 1)$

g. $(10w - 1)(10w + 1)$

h. $(-5w - 3)w^2$

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Challenges

$$3xz(9xy + z) - 2yz(x + y - z)$$

$$(t - 1)(t + 1)(t^2 + 1)$$