

Indicator 18 Class Notes by Mrs. Joshi

Recognize Parts of an Expression

(AL Standard: 15c--I can identify parts of an expression using mathematical terms.)

Resource: <https://www.mathsisfun.com>

Definition of

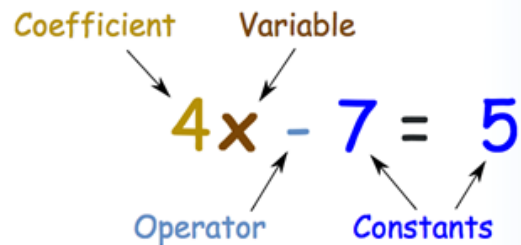
Coefficient

A number used to multiply a variable.

Example: $6z$ means 6 times z , and " z " is a variable, so 6 is a coefficient.

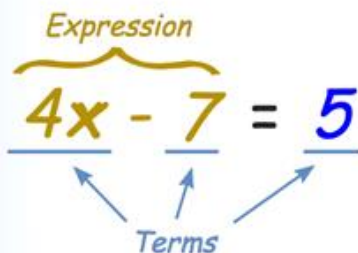
Variables with no number have a coefficient of 1.

Example: x is really $1x$.



Definition of

Term



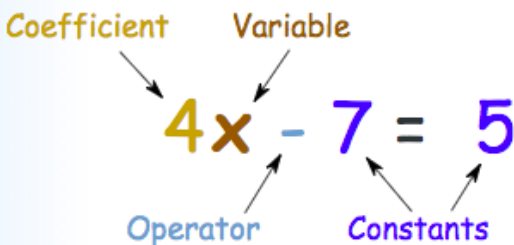
In Algebra a term is either a single number or variable, or numbers and variables multiplied together.

Terms are separated by + or - signs

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Definition of

Constant



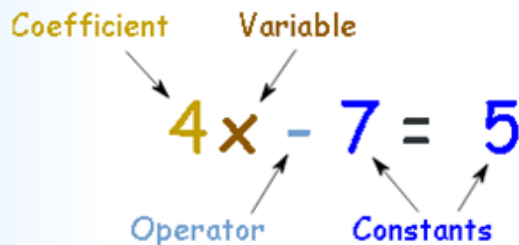
A fixed value.

In Algebra, a constant is a number on its own, or sometimes a letter such as a, b or c to stand for a fixed number.

Example: in " $x + 5 = 9$ ", 5 and 9 are constants.

Definition of

Variable



A symbol for a number we don't know yet. It is usually a letter like x or y.

Example: in $x + 2 = 6$, x is the variable.

Why "variable" when it may have just one value? In the case of $x + 2 = 6$ we can solve it to find that $x = 4$. But in something like $y = x + 2$ (a linear equation) x can have many values. In general it is much easier to always call it a variable even though in some cases it is a single value.