

Another way to solve a quadratic equation is to "complete the square". First of all, think about how to square binomials (using FOIL):

$$(x+5)^2 = \underline{x^2 + 10x + 25} \quad (x+5)(x+5) = x^2 + 5x + 5x + 25$$

$$(x-8)^2 = \underline{x^2 - 16x + 64} \quad 2(x)(-8)$$

$$(7x-4)^2 = \underline{49x^2 - 56x + 16} \quad 2(7x)(-4)$$

Now, looking at these problems, describe a pattern to quickly how to get each term in $(a+b)^2$.

$$a^2 + 2ab + b^2$$

Let's reverse your thinking: Fill in the blanks to make each of these true statements:

$$\left(\frac{18}{2}\right)^2 \quad x^2 + 18x + \underline{81} = (x + \underline{9})^2 \quad (x+9)(x+9)$$

$$\left(\frac{4}{2}\right)^2 \quad x^2 - 4x + \underline{4} = (\underline{x-2})^2$$

$$x^2 - 20x + \underline{\quad} = (x - \underline{\quad})^2$$

$$x^2 + 5x + \underline{\frac{25}{4}} = (\underline{x + \frac{5}{2}})^2 \quad \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^2$$

$$x^2 + 2.6x + \underline{\quad} = (\underline{\quad})^2$$

$$x^2 - 2\sqrt{5}x + \underline{\quad} = (\underline{\quad})^2$$

$$3x^2 + 42x + \underline{\quad} = 3(x^2 + \underline{\quad}) = 3(x + \underline{\quad})^2$$

So, if we wanted to solve $x^2 - 8x + 15 = 0$, we could "complete the square" and say: First, isolate your variables and force the leading coefficient to be 1. We'd get:

$$x^2 - 8x = -15$$

Now, add enough to both sides to "Complete the Square".

$$x^2 - 8x + 16 = -15 + 16$$

Factor the left side, and simplify the other.

$$(x-4)^2 = 1$$

Take the square root of both sides.

$$x-4 = \pm 1$$

The \pm sign is very important! Why? Now solve for x.

$$x = \pm 1 + 4 = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1+4 \\ -1+4 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \boxed{x=5 \text{ or } x=3}$$

Solve each of these equations by "Completing the Square". (Some are easier than others!)

1.) $\sqrt{(x-5)^2} = \sqrt{49}$

2.) $(5x-2)^2 = 4$

$$x-5 = \pm 7$$

$$x-5 = 7 \quad x-5 = -7$$

$$\boxed{x=12} \quad \boxed{x=-2}$$

3.) $x^2 + 2x + 1 = 25$

$$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ 3 \overline{) 3} \\ \underline{6} \end{array}$$

4.) $x^2 + 6x + 9 = 100$

$$(x+3)(x+3) = 100$$

$$\sqrt{(x+3)^2} = \sqrt{100}$$

$$x+3 = \pm 10$$

$$x+3 = 10$$

$$\boxed{x=7}$$

$$x+3 = -10$$

$$\boxed{x=-13}$$

$$5.) x^2 - 14x - 32 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{-14}{2}\right)^2 x^2 - 14x = 32 \\ & (-7)^2 x^2 - 14x + \underline{49} = 32 + \underline{49} \\ & 49 \sqrt{(x-7)^2} = \sqrt{81} \\ & x-7 = \pm 9 \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{x = 16, -2}$$

$$7.) p^2 + 20p = -75$$

$$6.) y^2 + 12y + 35 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{-16}{2}\right)^2 k^2 - 16k = 80 \\ & k^2 - 16k + \underline{64} = 80 + \underline{64} \\ & \sqrt{(k-8)^2} = \sqrt{144} \\ & k-8 = \pm 12 \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{k = 20, -4}$$

$$9.) x^2 = 50 - 5x$$

$$10.) m^2 + m - 20 = 400$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 m^2 + m = 420 \\ & m^2 + m + \frac{1}{4} = 420 + \frac{1}{4} \\ & \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{\left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{1681}{4}} \end{aligned}$$

$$m + \frac{1}{2} = \pm \frac{41}{2}$$

$$\boxed{m = 20, -21}$$

Sometimes the answers may not be rational...

$$11.) x^2 - 8x = 30$$

$$12.) y^2 = 9y - 5$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{-9}{2}\right)^2 y^2 - 9y = -5 \\ & \frac{81}{4} y^2 - 9y + \frac{81}{4} = -5 + \frac{81}{4} \\ & \sqrt{\left(y - \frac{9}{2}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{61}{4}} \\ & y - \frac{9}{2} = \pm \frac{\sqrt{61}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Sometimes the answers aren't even real...

$$13.) z^2 + 8z = -20$$

$$14.) 6x - x^2 = 48$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{8}{2}\right)^2 z^2 + 8z + \underline{16} = -20 + \underline{16} \\ & (4)^2 \sqrt{(z+4)^2} = \sqrt{-4} \\ & 16 z+4 = \pm 2i \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{z = -4 \pm 2i}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & y = \frac{9 \pm \sqrt{61}}{2} \quad \text{OR} \\ & y = \frac{9}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{61}}{2} \end{aligned}$$