Combing Like Terms

| <u>Polynomials</u> | Not Polynomials | but these ARE allowed |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 | 1/x | <i>J</i> 2 |
| 3xy + 2x + 5 | √× | x/2 |
| $5xy^2 - 3x + 5y^3 - 3$ | 2/(x+2) | 3×/8 |
| 4x + 5 | 3x ⁻⁵ | π |

Terms are called "<u>like terms</u>" when they have the same variable to the same power. Note: 3x can combine with 7x to make 10x because they are <u>like</u> terms.

<u>Coefficients</u> are the numbers in front of the variable. To combine like terms, we just add the coefficients. For example, to simplify 3x + 4x + 5x, we add 3 + 4 + 5... so the simplified expression is $1/2 \times$.

<u>Complete the activity below</u>: Circle all the terms below that match 3x. Underline all the terms that would combine with 6xy. Draw a triangle around all the terms that match with -7. Finally highlight all the terms that would combine with $9x^2$.





7ху



4xy

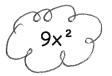












Зху

