

# Completing square of a quadratic function

## Warm Up

Write each expression as a trinomial.

1.  $(x - 5)^2$      $x^2 - 10x + 25$

2.  $(3x + 5)^2$      $9x^2 + 30x + 25$

Factor each expression.

3.  $x^2 - 18x + 81$      $(x - 9)^2$

4.  $16x^2 + 24x + 9$      $(4x + 3)^2$

## ***Objectives***

Solve quadratic equations by completing the square.

Write quadratic equations in vertex form.

# ***Vocabulary***

completing the square

Many quadratic equations contain expressions that cannot be easily factored. For equations containing these types of expressions, you can use square roots to find roots.

## Square-Root Property

WORDS	NUMBERS	ALGEBRA
To solve a quadratic equation, you can take the square root of both sides. Be sure to consider the positive and negative square roots.	$x^2 = 15$ $\sqrt{x^2} = \pm\sqrt{15}$ $x = \pm\sqrt{15}$	If $x^2 = a$ and $a$ is a nonnegative real number, then $x = \pm\sqrt{a}$ .

## Reading Math

Read  $\pm\sqrt{a}$  as "plus or minus square root of  $a$ ."

## Example 1A: Solving Equations by Using the Square Root Property

Solve the equation.

$$4x^2 + 11 = 59$$

$$4x^2 = 48$$

*Subtract 11 from both sides.*

$$x^2 = 12$$

*Divide both sides by 4 to isolate the square term.*

$$x = \pm\sqrt{12}$$

*Take the square root of both sides.*

$$x = \pm 2\sqrt{3}$$

*Simplify.*

## Example 1A Continued

**Check** Use a graphing calculator.

$4*(2\sqrt{3})^2+11$	59
$4*(-2\sqrt{3})^2+11$	59



## Example 1B: Solving Equations by Using the Square Root Property

Solve the equation.

$$x^2 + 12x + 36 = 28$$

$$(x + 6)^2 = 28$$

*Factor the perfect square trinomial*

$$x+6 = \pm\sqrt{28}$$

*Take the square root of both sides.*

$$x = -6 \pm \sqrt{28}$$

*Subtract 6 from both sides.*

$$x = -6 \pm 2\sqrt{7}$$

*Simplify.*



## Check It Out! Example 1a

Solve the equation.

$$4x^2 - 20 = 5$$

$$4x^2 = 25$$

$$x^2 = \frac{25}{4}$$

$$x = \frac{\pm\sqrt{25}}{\pm\sqrt{4}}$$

$$x = \pm\frac{5}{2}$$

*Add 20 to both sides.*

*Divide both sides by 4 to isolate the square term.*

*Take the square root of both sides.*

*Simplify.*

## Check It Out! Example 1a Continued

**Check** Use a graphing calculator.

$4 * (-5/2)^2 - 20$	5
$4 * (5/2)^2 - 20$	5

## Check It Out! Example 1b

Solve the equation.

$$x^2 + 8x + 16 = 49$$

$$(x + 4)^2 = 49$$

*Factor the perfect square trinomial.*

$$x + 4 = \pm \sqrt{49}$$

*Take the square root of both sides.*

$$x = -4 \pm \sqrt{49}$$

*Subtract 4 from both sides.*

$$x = -11, 3$$

*Simplify.*

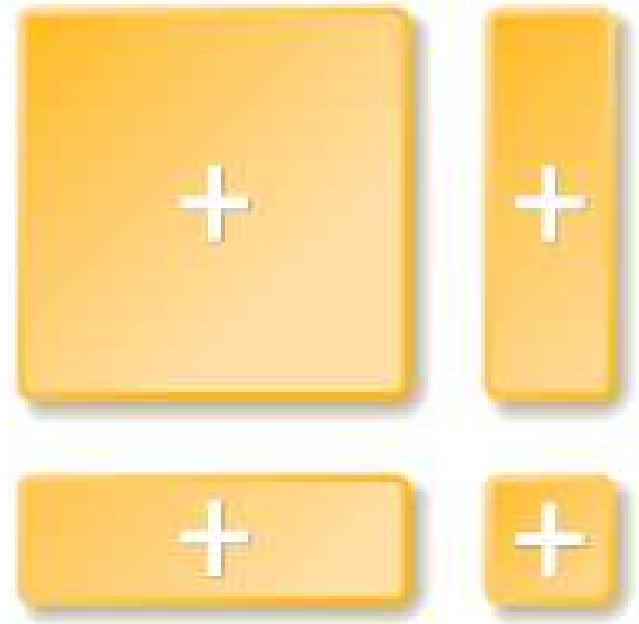
## Check It Out! Example 1b Continued

**Check** Use a graphing calculator.

$(-11)^2 + 8(-11) + 16$	
	49
$(3)^2 + 8(3) + 16$	
	49

The methods in the previous examples can be used only for expressions that are perfect squares. However, you can use algebra to rewrite any quadratic expression as a perfect square.

You can use algebra tiles to model a perfect square trinomial as a perfect square. The area of the square at right is  $x^2 + 2x + 1$ . Because each side of the square measures  $x + 1$  units, the area is also  $(x + 1)(x + 1)$ , or  $(x + 1)^2$ . This shows that  $(x + 1)^2 = x^2 + 2x + 1$ .



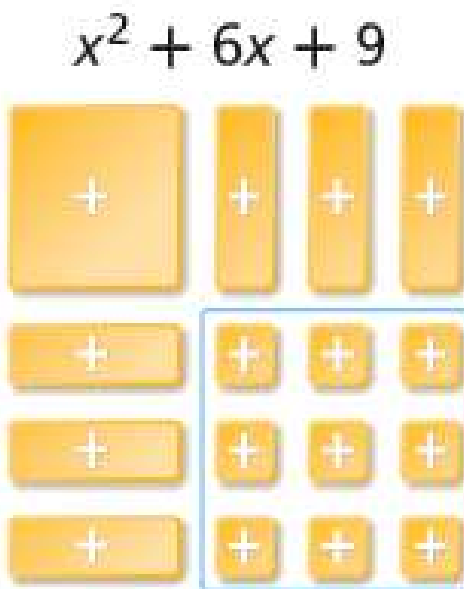
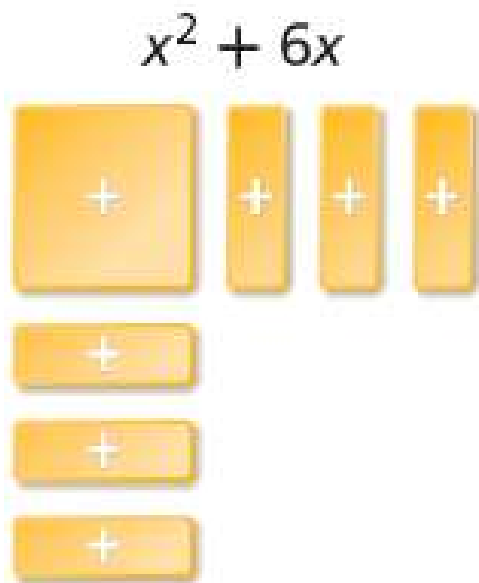
If a quadratic expression of the form  $x^2 + bx$  *cannot* model a square, you can add a term to form a perfect square trinomial. This is called **completing the square**.

### Completing the Square

WORDS	NUMBERS	ALGEBRA
To complete the square of $x^2 + bx$ , add $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$ .	$x^2 + 6x + \blacksquare$ $x^2 + 6x + \left(\frac{6}{2}\right)^2$ $x^2 + 6x + 9$ $(x + 3)^2$	$x^2 + bx + \blacksquare$ $x^2 + bx + \left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$ $\left(x + \frac{b}{2}\right)^2$



The model shows completing the square for  $x^2 + 6x$  by adding 9 unit tiles. The resulting perfect square trinomial is  $x^2 + 6x + 9$ . Note that completing the square does not produce an equivalent expression.



$$b = 6$$

$$\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{6}{2}\right)^2 = 9$$

## Example 2A: Completing the Square

Complete the square for the expression. Write the resulting expression as a binomial squared.

$$x^2 - 14x + \blacksquare$$

$$\left(\frac{-14}{2}\right)^2 = (-7)^2 = 49 \quad \text{Find } \left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2.$$

$$x^2 - 14x + 49 \quad \text{Add.}$$

$$(x - 7)^2 \quad \text{Factor.}$$

**Check** Find the square of the binomial.

$$\begin{aligned}(x - 7)^2 &= (x - 7)(x - 7) \\ &= x^2 - 14x + 49\end{aligned}$$

## Example 2B: Completing the Square

Complete the square for the expression. Write the resulting expression as a binomial squared.

$$x^2 + 9x + \blacksquare$$

$$\left(\frac{9}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{81}{4}$$

$$x^2 + 9x + \frac{81}{4}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{9}{2}\right)^2$$

*Find*  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$ .

*Add.*

*Factor.*

**Check** Find the square of the binomial.

$$\left(x + \frac{9}{2}\right)^2 = \left(x + \frac{9}{2}\right)\left(x + \frac{9}{2}\right)$$

$$= x^2 + 9x + \frac{81}{4}$$

## Check It Out! Example 2a

Complete the square for the expression. Write the resulting expression as a binomial squared.

$$x^2 + 4x + \blacksquare$$

$$\left(\frac{4}{2}\right)^2 = (2)^2 = 4 \quad \text{Find } \left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2.$$

$$x^2 + 4x + 4 \quad \text{Add.}$$

$$(x + 2)^2 \quad \text{Factor.}$$

**Check** Find the square of the binomial.

$$\begin{aligned}(x + 2)^2 &= (x + 2)(x + 2) \\ &= x^2 + 4x + 4\end{aligned}$$

## Check It Out! Example 2b

Complete the square for the expression. Write the resulting expression as a binomial squared.

$$x^2 - 4x + \square$$

$$\left(\frac{-4}{2}\right)^2 = (-2)^2 = 4 \quad \text{Find } \left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2.$$

$$x^2 - 4x + 4 \quad \text{Add.}$$

$$(x - 2)^2 \quad \text{Factor.}$$

**Check** Find the square of the binomial.

$$\begin{aligned}(x - 2)^2 &= (x - 2)(x - 2) \\ &= x^2 - 4x + 4\end{aligned}$$

## Check It Out! Example 2c

Complete the square for the expression. Write the resulting expression as a binomial squared.

$$x^2 + 3x + \blacksquare$$

$$\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{9}{4} \quad \text{Find } \left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2.$$

$$x^2 + 3x + \frac{9}{4} \quad \text{Add.}$$

$$\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 \quad \text{Factor.}$$

**Check** Find the square of the binomial.

$$\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)^2 = \left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)\left(x + \frac{3}{2}\right)$$

$$= x^2 + 3x + \frac{9}{4}$$

You can complete the square to solve quadratic equations.

### **Solving Quadratic Equations $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ by Completing the Square**

1. Collect variable terms on one side of the equation and constants on the other.
2. As needed, divide both sides by  $a$  to make the coefficient of the  $x^2$ -term 1.
3. Complete the square by adding  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$  to both sides of the equation.
4. Factor the variable expression as a perfect square.
5. Take the square root of both sides of the equation.
6. Solve for the values of the variable.

## Example 3A: Solving a Quadratic Equation by Completing the Square

Solve the equation by completing the square.

$$x^2 = 12x - 20$$

$$x^2 - 12x = -20$$

*Collect variable terms on one side.*

$$x^2 - 12x + \blacksquare = -20 + \blacksquare$$

*Set up to complete the square.*

$$x^2 - 12x + \left(-\frac{12}{2}\right)^2 = -20 + \left(-\frac{12}{2}\right)^2$$

*Add  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$  to both sides.*

$$x^2 - 12x + 36 = -20 + 36$$

*Simplify.*



## Example 3A Continued

$$(x - 6)^2 = 16$$

*Factor.*

$$x - 6 = \pm\sqrt{16}$$

*Take the square root of both sides.*

$$x - 6 = \pm 4$$

*Simplify.*

$$x - 6 = 4 \text{ or } x - 6 = -4$$

*Solve for x.*

$$x = 10 \text{ or } x = 2$$

## Example 3B: Solving a Quadratic Equation by Completing the Square

Solve the equation by completing the square.

$$18x + 3x^2 = 45$$

$$x^2 + 6x = 15$$

*Divide both sides by 3.*

$$x^2 + 6x + \blacksquare = 15 + \blacksquare$$

*Set up to complete the square.*

$$x^2 + 6x + \left(\frac{6}{2}\right)^2 = 15 + \left(\frac{6}{2}\right)^2$$

*Add  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$  to both sides.*

$$x^2 + 6x + 9 = 15 + 9$$

*Simplify.*

## Example 3B Continued

$$(x + 3)^2 = 24$$

*Factor.*

$$x + 3 = \pm\sqrt{24}$$

*Take the square root of both sides.*

$$x = -3 \pm 2\sqrt{6}$$

*Simplify.*

## Check It Out! Example 3a

Solve the equation by completing the square.

$$x^2 - 2 = 9x$$

$$x^2 - 9x = 2$$

$$x^2 - 9x + \blacksquare = 2 + \blacksquare$$

$$x^2 - 9x + \left(\frac{9}{2}\right)^2 = 2 + \left(\frac{9}{2}\right)^2$$

$$x^2 - 9x + \frac{81}{4} = 2 + \frac{81}{4}$$

*Collect variable terms on one side.*

*Set up to complete the square.*

*Add  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$  to both sides.*

*Simplify.*

## Check It Out! Example 3a Continued

$$\left(x - \frac{9}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{89}{4}$$

*Factor.*

$$x - \frac{9}{2} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{89}{4}}$$

*Take the square root of both sides.*

$$x = \frac{9 \pm \sqrt{89}}{2}$$

*Simplify.*

## Check It Out! Example 3b

Solve the equation by completing the square.

$$3x^2 - 24x = 27$$

$$x^2 - 8x = 9$$

*Divide both sides by 3.*

$$x^2 - 8x + \blacksquare = 9 + \blacksquare$$

*Set up to complete the square.*

$$x^2 - 8x + \left(\frac{8}{2}\right)^2 = 9 + \left(\frac{8}{2}\right)^2$$

*Add  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$  to both sides.*

$$x^2 - 8x + 16 = 9 + 16$$

*Simplify.*

## Check It Out! Example 3b Continued

Solve the equation by completing the square.

$$(x - 4)^2 = 25$$

*Factor.*

$$x - 4 = \pm\sqrt{25}$$

*Take the square root of both sides.*

$$x - 4 = \pm 25$$

*Simplify.*

$$x - 4 = -5 \text{ or } x - 4 = 5$$

*Solve for x.*

$$x = -1 \text{ or } x = 9$$

Recall the vertex form of a quadratic function from lesson 5-1:  $f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k$ , where the vertex is  $(h, k)$ .

You can complete the square to rewrite any quadratic function in vertex form.

### Helpful Hint

In Example 3, the equation was balanced by adding  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$  to *both* sides. Here, the equation is balanced by adding and subtracting  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$  on *one* side.



## Example 4A: Writing a Quadratic Function in Vertex Form

Write the function in vertex form, and identify its vertex.

$$f(x) = x^2 + 16x - 12$$

$$f(x) = (x^2 + 16x + \blacksquare) - 12 - \blacksquare$$

*Set up to complete the square.*

$$f(x) = \left[ x^2 + 16x + \left( \frac{16}{2} \right)^2 \right] - 12 - \left( \frac{16}{2} \right)^2$$

*Add and subtract  $\left( \frac{b}{2} \right)^2$ .*

$$f(x) = (x + 8)^2 - 76$$

*Simplify and factor.*

Because  $h = -8$  and  $k = -76$ , the vertex is  $(-8, -76)$ .

## Example 4A Continued

**Check** Use the axis of symmetry formula to confirm vertex.

$$x = -\frac{b}{2a} = -\frac{16}{2(1)} = -8$$

$$y = f(-8) = (-8)^2 + 16(-8) - 12 = -76 \quad \checkmark$$

## Example 4B: Writing a Quadratic Function in Vertex Form

Write the function in vertex form, and identify its vertex

$$g(x) = 3x^2 - 18x + 7$$

$$g(x) = 3(x^2 - 6x) + 7$$

$$g(x) = 3(x^2 - 6x + \blacksquare) + 7 - \blacksquare$$

$$g(x) = 3 \left[ x^2 - 6x + \left( -\frac{6}{2} \right)^2 \right] + 7 - 3 \left( -\frac{6}{2} \right)^2$$

*Factor so the coefficient of  $x^2$  is 1.*

*Set up to complete the square.*

*Add  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$ . Because  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$  is multiplied by 3, you must subtract  $3\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$ .*

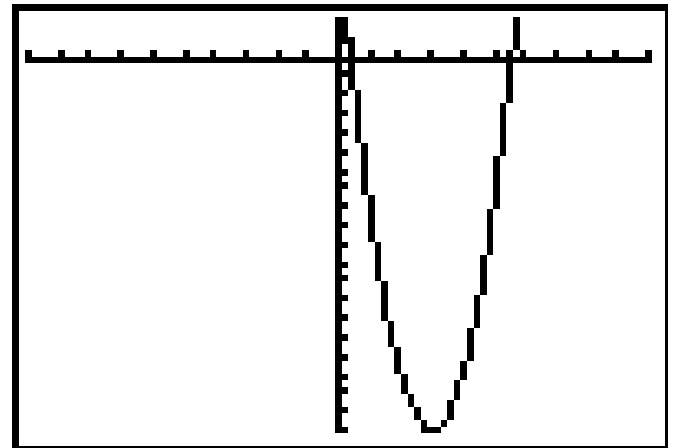
## Example 4B Continued

$$g(x) = 3(x - 3)^2 - 20$$

*Simplify and factor.*

Because  $h = 3$  and  $k = -20$ , the vertex is  $(3, -20)$ .

**Check** A graph of the function on a graphing calculator supports your answer.



## Check It Out! Example 4a

Write the function in vertex form, and identify its vertex

$$f(x) = x^2 + 24x + 145$$

$$f(x) = (x^2 + 24x + \blacksquare) + 145 - \blacksquare$$

*Set up to complete the square.*

$$f(x) = \left[ x^2 + 24x + \left( \frac{24}{2} \right)^2 \right] + 145 - \left( \frac{24}{2} \right)^2$$

*Add and subtract  $\left( \frac{b}{2} \right)^2$ .*

$$f(x) = (x + 12)^2 + 1$$

*Simplify and factor.*

Because  $h = -12$  and  $k = 1$ , the vertex is  $(-12, 1)$ .

## Check It Out! Example 4a Continued

**Check** Use the axis of symmetry formula to confirm vertex.

$$x = -\frac{b}{2a} = -\frac{24}{2(1)} = -12$$

$$y = f(-12) = (-12)^2 + 24(-12) + 145 = 1 \checkmark$$

## Check It Out! Example 4b

**Write the function in vertex form, and identify its vertex**

$$g(x) = 5x^2 - 50x + 128$$

$$g(x) = 5(x^2 - 10x) + 128$$

$$g(x) = 5(x^2 - 10x + \blacksquare) + 128 - \blacksquare$$

$$g(x) = 5 \left[ x^2 - 10x + \left( -\frac{10}{2} \right)^2 \right] + 128 - 5 \left( -\frac{10}{2} \right)^2$$

*Factor so the coefficient of  $x^2$  is 1.*

*Set up to complete the square.*

*Add  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$ . Because  $\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$  is multiplied by 5, you must subtract  $5\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^2$ .*

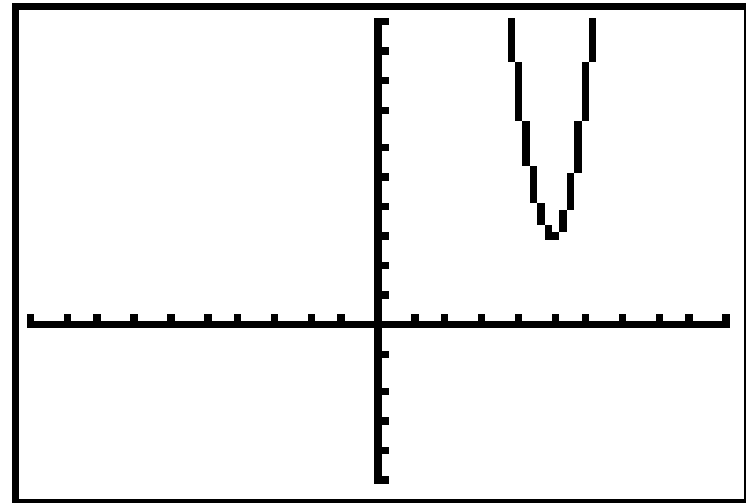
## Check It Out! Example 4b Continued

$$g(x) = 5(x - 5)^2 + 3$$

*Simplify and factor.*

Because  $h = 5$  and  $k = 3$ , the vertex is  $(5, 3)$ .

**Check** A graph of the function on a graphing calculator supports your answer.





## Lesson Quiz

1. Complete the square for the expression  $x^2 - 15x + \square$ . Write the resulting expression as a binomial squared.

$$x^2 - 15x + \frac{225}{4} = \left(x - \frac{15}{2}\right)^2$$

**Solve each equation.**

2.  $x^2 - 16x + 64 = 20$   $8 \pm 2\sqrt{5}$     3.  $x^2 - 27 = 4x$   $2 \pm \sqrt{31}$

**Write each function in vertex form and identify its vertex.**

4.  $f(x) = x^2 + 6x - 7$

$$f(x) = (x + 3)^2 - 16;$$

$(-3, -16)$

5.  $f(x) = 2x^2 - 12x - 27$

$$f(x) = 2(x - 3)^2 - 45;$$

$(3, -45)$