

Factor:  
 $a \neq 1$

$$3x^2 - 7x + 2$$

$3 \cdot 2 = 6$

$$3x^2 - x - 6x + 2$$

$$(3x^2 - x)(-6x + 2)$$

$$x(3x - 1) - 2(3x - 1)$$

$$(x - 2)(3x - 1)$$

① GCF

② Multiply  
 $a \cdot c$

③ use the X  
 method w/ the  
 answ to step 2  
 & "b"

④ Rewrite the  
 problem as 4  
 terms

⑤ factor by  
 grouping

Factor:  $12x^2 - 19x + 4$

$12 \cdot 4 = 48$



$\begin{array}{r} 48 \\ -16 \quad \times \quad -3 \\ -19 \end{array}$

$(12x^2 - 16x)(-3x + 4)$

$4x(3x - 4) - 1(3x - 4)$

$(4x - 1)(3x - 4)$

## Factoring Polynomials When...

The degree is 2 (Quadratic)
The # of terms is 3 (Trinomial)
The leading coefficient $\neq 1$ (a)

$$ax^2 + bx + c$$

Steps for factoring success
1. GCF! (Always)
2. Multiply a and c
3. List the factors of the answer to step #2
4. Which factors combine to equal b?
5. Rewrite the problem as 4 terms
6. Factor by Grouping

## Factoring Perfect Cubes

Sum of cubes

$$(a+b)(a^2-ab+b^2)$$

$$a^3 + b^3$$

$$x^3 + 8$$

$$(x+2)(x^2-2x+4)$$

Difference of cubes

$$(a-b)(a^2+ab+b^2)$$

$$x^3 - 8$$

$$(x-2)(x^2+2x+4)$$

①  $\sqrt[3]{}$   
of 1st term  
(a)

② Same sign  
as the original  
problem

③  $\sqrt[3]{}$  of the  
last term ( $b^3$ )

④ Square "a"

⑤ Opposite Sign  
from orig. problem

⑥ Multiply a · b

⑦ last sign is  
always positive

⑧ Square "b"

$$\begin{array}{l} \cancel{25x^2 + 4} \\ \cancel{(5x+2)(5x+2)} \\ \cancel{25x^2 + 20x + 4} \end{array}$$

$$x^3 + 64$$

$$(x + 4)(x^2 - 4x + 16)$$

$$250x^3 - 54$$
$$2(125x^3 - 27)$$
$$2(5x - 3)(25x^2 + 15x + 9)$$

## Foldable

Sum of  
cubes

$$(a+b)(a^2-ab+b^2)$$

Difference  
of cubes

$$(a-b)(a^2+ab+b^2)$$