

GCF
* Always
want to
try to GCF

DOTS
2 terms

TRI
3 terms

TRICKY
3 terms

G-ROUP
4 terms

Factoring by Grouping (4 terms)

Steps:

- ① If the middle operation is subtraction, then make two changes
- ② Create groups using parentheses around the first two terms and the last two terms
- ③ GCF both quantities
- ④ Check both quantities match
- ⑤ Rewrite the matching quantity ONCE and write whatever is outside the matching quantities

ex $2x^3 + 3x^2 - 8x - 12$

- ① $2x^3 + 3x^2 + -8x - 12$
- ② $(2x^3 + 3x^2) + (-8x - 12)$
- ③ $x^2(2x+3) + -4(2x+3)$
- ④ $(2x+3)(x^2 - 4)$
- ⑤ $(2x+3)(x+2)(x-2)$

DOTS