

Understanding terms and expressions

In algebra a '**term**' is a combination of a number and letters that represent unknown numbers. The following are all examples of algebraic terms:

$$2x$$

$$3ab$$

$$16W$$

$$\frac{1}{2}A$$

In algebra the word '**expression**' refers to some combination of numbers and algebraic terms added and/or subtracted from each other. The following are all examples of algebraic expressions:

$$2x + 3y$$

$$3ab - 4ac$$

$$16W + 8L$$

$$\frac{1}{2}A - 3B + 8C$$

NOTE: these terms and expressions do **not** include an equals sign. The equals sign a formula or equation. For example:

$$P = 2L + 2W \quad \text{is a formula.}$$

$$2x + 3 = 6 \quad \text{is an equation.}$$