

Algebraic Fractions - Lesson 3

Multiplying Algebraic Fractions

LI

- x algebraic fractions.

SC

- x numbers.
- Factorise quadratic expressions.

Rules for $+$, $-$, \times or \div algebraic fractions are
the same as those for numerical fractions

Example 1

Express as a single fraction in simplest form :

$$\frac{4}{p} \times \frac{3}{p}$$

$$= \frac{4 \times 3}{p \times p}$$

$$= \frac{12}{p^2}$$

Example 2

Express as a single fraction in simplest form :

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{7}{w} \times \frac{w^2}{6n} & \left| & \frac{7}{w \div w} \times \frac{w^2 \div w}{6n} \\ = & \frac{7 \times w^2}{w \times 6n} & = & \frac{7}{1} \times \frac{w}{6n} \\ = & \frac{7w^2}{6nw} & = & \boxed{\frac{7w}{6n}} \\ = & \boxed{\frac{7w}{6n}} & & \end{aligned}$$

Example 3

Express as a single fraction in simplest form :

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(x + 1)(x - 3)}{x + 8} \times \frac{4(x + 8)}{x - 3} \\ = & \frac{4(x + 1)(x - 3)(x + 8)}{(x + 8)(x - 3)} \quad \begin{array}{l} \div (x - 3)(x + 8) \\ \div (x - 3)(x + 8) \end{array} \\ = & \frac{4(x + 1)}{1} \\ = & \boxed{4(x + 1)} \end{aligned}$$

Example 4

Express as a single fraction in simplest form :

$$\frac{x + 7}{x^2 + 8x + 15} \times \frac{x^2 - 25}{x^2 - 2x - 63}$$

$$x^2 - 25 = (x - 5)(x + 5)$$

$$x^2 + 8x + 15 = (x + 5)(x + 3)$$

$$x^2 - 2x - 63 = (x + 7)(x - 9)$$

$$= \frac{x + 7}{(x + 5)(x + 3)} \times \frac{(x - 5)(x + 5)}{(x + 7)(x - 9)}$$

$$= \frac{\cancel{(x + 7)}(x - 5)\cancel{(x + 5)}}{\cancel{(x + 5)}(x + 3)\cancel{(x + 7)}(x - 9)}$$

$$= \frac{(x - 5)}{(x + 3)(x - 9)}$$

1 Express each of the following as a single fraction in its simplest form.

a $\frac{7}{x} \times \frac{2}{x}$

b $\frac{4}{x} \times \frac{x}{2y}$

c $\frac{5}{x} \times \frac{3}{10} \times \frac{xy}{3}$

d $\frac{2xy}{z} \times \frac{5}{4x^2}$

e $\frac{3}{2x^5} \times \frac{x^4}{9}$

f $\frac{(x+5)(x+2)}{x+3} \times \frac{2(x+3)}{x+2}$

2 Express each of the following as a single fraction in its simplest form.

a $\frac{5}{x} \times 2y$

b $x \times \frac{5x}{3}$

c $\frac{4x^2}{5} \times 3x^2$

d $(x+5) \times \frac{x-5}{3}$

e $\frac{5}{4x^2-4} \times (x+1)$

f $x+3 \times \frac{x^2+9}{x^2-9}$

g $\frac{3x}{x^2+3x-28} \times \frac{x^2-49}{x^2}$

h $\frac{x+3}{x^2+3x+2} \times \frac{x^2-4}{x^2+4x+3}$

i $\frac{x^2+x-12}{x^2-x-6} \times \frac{x^2-2x-8}{x^2-16}$

Answers

1	a	$\frac{14}{x^2}$
	b	$\frac{2}{y}$
	c	$\frac{y}{2}$
	d	$\frac{5y}{2xz}$
	e	$\frac{1}{6x}$
	f	$2x + 10$

2	a	$\frac{10y}{x}$
	b	$\frac{5x^2}{3}$
	c	$\frac{12x^4}{5}$
	d	$\frac{x^2-25}{3}$
	e	$\frac{5}{4(x-4)}$
	f	$\frac{x^2+9}{x-3}$
	g	$\frac{3x-21}{x^2-4x}$
	h	$\frac{x-2}{x^2+2x+1}$
	i	1