Vocabulary: Simplifying Algebraic Expressions 1

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**Vocabulary**

* Additive Identity – The sum of any number and zero is that number.
* Algebraic expression – an expression that contains numbers, variables, and operators.
* Commutative – when values connected by an operator give the same result, regardless of the order of the values.
  + Multiplication is commutative because a • b and b • a are equivalent expressions.
* Distributive – when an operator performed on two separate values gives the same result as the operator performed on the values combined.
  + Multiplication is distributive because a(b + c) and ab + ac are equivalent expressions.
* Multiplicative Identity – The product of any number and one is that number.

* Multiplication Property of Negative One – The product of any number and negative one is the opposite of that number.
* Multiplication Property of Zero – The product of any number and zero is zero.
* Simplest Form – The form of an expression that contains no parentheses and no terms that can be combined.
* Term – A quantity in an expression. Terms are separated by addition or subtraction.
  + Terms can be numbers, the product of a number and a variable, or the product of two or more variables.
  + In the expression 3a2 + 4ab + 5b + –6, the terms are 3a2, 4ab, 5b, and –6.