

How Do I Factor This Polynomial?

≧ A simple guide ≦



Start



1. Factor out the GCF first

$$6x^2 + 9x = 3x(2x + 3)$$



2. How many terms are left?

2 terms



**Look for
special patterns**

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

difference of
squares

$$a^3 \pm b^3$$

sum/difference
of cubes

3 terms

Does it look like
 $ax^2 + bx + c$?

If $a = 1$,
find two
numbers

If $a \neq 1$,
use the
AC method

**Also check
perfect square
trinomials**



4 terms

Try grouping

$$ax + ay + bx + by$$



Always check: Can it factor more?



Done!