COMBINING LIKE TERMS

def

LIKE TERMS - TERMS THAT HAVE THE SAME VARIABLE TO THE SAME POWER (EXPONENT)

$2x$ $3x$ LIKE TERMS

SAME VAR. (x) SAME EXP (1)

$$2x + 3x = 5x$$

$5y^2$ $4y^2$ LIKE TERMS

SAME VAR (y) SAME EXP (2)

$$5y^2 + 4y^2 = 9y^2 \qquad 5y^2 - 4y^2 = 1y^2$$

y^2

$8m$ $3m^2$ NOT LIKE TERMS

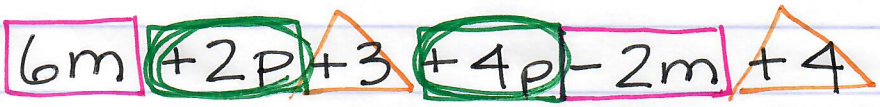
SAME VAR. (m) NOT THE SAME EXP

$$8m + 3m^2 = 3m^2 + 8m$$

* LIST TERMS ALPHABETICALLY AND IN DESCENDING ORDER ON THE VARIABLE (COMMUTATIVE PROPERTY)

STRATEGIES FOR COMBINING LIKE TERMS

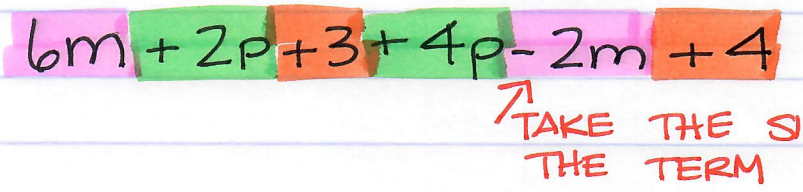
1) SHAPE



$6m - 2m + 2p + 4p + 3 + 4$

$4m + 6p + 7$

2) HIGHLIGHTER (COLOR)



$6m - 2m + 2p + 4p + 3 + 4$

$4m + 6p + 7$

YOU TRY:

1) $6x + 5x + 2y$

$11x + 2y$

2) $3a^2 + 4a^2 - a^2$

$6a^2$

3) $6y^3 + 2y^2 + 4y^3 + 2y^2$

$10y^3 + 4y^2$

4) $a + a + a + 7$

$3a + 7$