

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ GB# \_\_\_\_\_

Definitions for sections 9-4 (Polynomials) and 9-5 (Adding and Subtracting Polynomials)

A term is a number, variable or the product of a number and one or more variables. If the term is just a number, it is called a constant.

A polynomial is the sum/difference of terms. There are different names for that expression depending on the number of terms in the sum/difference.

Name	Number of terms
Monomial	One
Binomial	Two
Trinomial	Three
Polynomial	Four or more

The number part of the term is called the coefficient. Remember when adding or subtracting you can only add/subtract LIKE TERMS. And when you do add/subtract like terms, you add/subtract the coefficients and you leave the variable part alone. In other words, do NOT change the exponent!

The degree of a monomial is the number of times the variable occurs (the exponent). The degree of a polynomial is the greatest degree of its terms after it has been simplified.

Ascending order is when the degree of the variable increases from the term before it. And descending order means the degree of the variable is smaller than the term before it.