## How to Simplify Algebraic Expressions

To simplify an algebraic expression, you may need to use the distributive property, combine like terms, or both. **Like terms** are terms that have the same variables raised to the same powers, like 7x and 2x.

**Let's try it!** Simplify 2(8x - 5) - 9x.

Use the distributive property. Distribute the 2 to each term inside the parentheses.

2(8x) - 2(5) - 9x

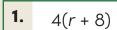
2(8x - 5) - 9x

Simplify. Then combine like terms, paying attention to the operation in front of 9x.

**16**x - 10 - **9**x

7x - 10

## Simplify each expression.



**6.** 
$$7(3m+2)+1$$