

Subtracting Polynomials of a Single Variable

When subtracting polynomials, it's important to keep in mind that subtracting a polynomial is the same as adding its negative.

$$\begin{aligned}(2x^2 + 5x + 7) - (x^2 - 3x + 12) \\= (2x^2 + 5x + 7) + (-x^2 + 3x - 12) \\= x^2 + 8x - 5\end{aligned}$$

Now try these questions on your own.

1) $(3x^2 - 2x + 10) - (3x^2 + 3x + 1) =$

2) $(y - y^2) - (2y - 2y^2) - (3 + y) =$

3) $(2w^3 - 3w^2 + 4) - (-2w^2 + 7w + 1) =$

4) $(-x^7 + 10x + 7) - (9x^7 - 4x - 1) =$

5) $(x^4 + 3x^3 - 2x - 19) - (-x^5 + 4x^4 - 3x - 3) =$

6) $(-2x^2 + 9x + 1) - (x^2 + 4) =$

7) $(2a^3 - 3a^2 + a) - (2a^3 - 3a^2 + a + 1) =$

8) $(z + 1) - (z^2 + 2) - (z^2 - z) =$

9) $(3h^4 - 8h - 7) - (2h^4 - 2h + 1) =$

10) $(-2x^{11} - 3x^4) - (-2x^{11} - 3x^{10} - 2x^3 - 3x^4) =$

<http://math.about.com>