

Expand. $(R - 5)^2 = (R)^2 - 2(R)(5) + (5)^2$

The square of a binomial formula:

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

$$= R^2 - 10R + 25$$

A **perfect square trinomial** is the product you obtain when you square a binomial. An example is $x^2 + 10x + 25$, which can be written as $(x + 5)^2$. The first term and the third term of the trinomial are always positive, as they represent the squares of the two terms of the binomial. The middle term of the trinomial is two times the product of the terms of the binomial.

Property

Factoring Perfect Square Trinomials

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

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

Factor completely.

$$\sqrt{w^2 - 12w + 36} = (w - 6)^2$$

$\underbrace{\quad \quad \quad}_{= 6w}$

Since $b = 2(6w)$ this factors into two terms that are the same: $(w-6)$. Notice the sign of b in the original trinomial is the same as the sign of the two identical factors.

Factor each completely.

1. $\sqrt{Q^2 - 30Q + 225}$

$Q \quad \cdot \quad 15$

since b is $2ab=2(Q)(15) = 30Q$
this factors using the
perfect square trinomial
factoring method

$$= (Q - 15)^2$$

2. $8n^3 + 192n^2 + 1152n$

$$8n(\sqrt{n^2 + 24n + 144})$$

$n \quad \quad \quad 12$

since b is $2ab=2(n)(12) = 24n$
this factors using the
perfect square trinomial
factoring method

$$= 8n(n + 12)^2$$

Expand

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

$$(4R + 3)^2$$

$$a^2 = (4R)^2$$

$$b^2 = 3^2$$

$$16R^2 + 24R + 9$$

$$2ab = 2(4R)(3) = 2(12R)$$

Factor Completely.

$$\sqrt{16n^2 - 40n + 25}$$

$$4n \quad 5$$

since b is $2ab = 2(4n)(5) = 40n$
this factors using the
perfect square trinomial
factoring method

$$(4n - 5)^2$$

Factor each completely.

1. $\sqrt{4b^2 - 28b + 49}$
 $2b$

since b is $2ab = 2(2b)(7) = 28b$
this factors using the
perfect square trinomial
factoring method

$$= (2b - 7)^2$$

2. $\sqrt{9d^2 + 60d + 64}$
 $3d \quad 8$

since b isn't $2ab = 2(3d)(8) \neq 60d$
this doesn't factor using the perfect
square trinomial factoring method.
Therefore, factor this trinomial using
the usual method.

$3d$	$+16$
$9d^2$	$+48d$
$+4$	$+64$

$$= (3d + 16)(3d + 4)$$