Terms

There are **two types of terms**, **constant terms** and **variable terms**.

Constant terms
(also called number terms)

Constant terms are just numbers by themselves and the sign that is in front of them, they do not have any variables (letters) in them.

Examples of constant terms are:
5, -7, -18.3, .99, -5/7, and 2/3.

Variable terms

Variable terms unlike a constant term which is just a number and the sign in front of it, a variable term is the product of the number and the variable.

A variable term includes the variable (and the exponent on the variable if there is an exponent), the number the variable is multiplied or divided by and the sign in front of it.

Examples of variable terms are:

-3x, this is an x term, it is the product of -3 and the variable x.

$27w^2$, this is a w^2 term (w squared term); it is the product of the number 27 and w^2.

$-2/3x^3$, this is an x^3 term (x cubed term); it is the product of the number -2/3, and x^3.

$5y^4$, this is a y^4 term (y to the fourth term); it is the product of the number 5 and y^4.

Like Terms

Like terms are terms that have the **same variables** with the **same exponents on those variables.**

Constant terms

(all constant terms are like terms)

All **Constant terms** are like terms, they do not have any variables (letters) in them so they meet the requirement of having the same exact variable and the same exact exponents on those variables because they don't have any variables or exponents.

Variable terms

Variable terms are **like terms** if they have the **same variables** with the **same exponents on those variables**.

Examples of like x variable terms are:
-3x, 5x, 17x, 1/3x, -2/5x. They all have the same variable and the exponent on the variable is the same for all of them.

Examples of like w^2 (w squared) variable terms are:
$27w^2$, $36w^2$, $-2/3w^2$, $5/9w^2$, $-9w^2$. They all have the same variable and the exponent on the variable is the same for all of them.

Examples of like y^3 (y cubed) variable terms are:
$27y^3$, $36y^3$, $-2/3y^3$, $5/9y^3$, $-9y^3$. They all have the same variable and the exponent on the variable is the same for all of them.

Examples of like y^4 (y to the fourth) variable terms are:
$6y^4$, $-18y^4$, $-2/9y^4$, $4/3y^4$. They all have the same variable and the exponent on the variable is the same for all of them.