**Factoring a Polynomial**

**Steps to Follow**

1. Is there a COMMON FACTOR ?  
    *see example 1*
2. How many terms are there ? 2 or 3  
    2 3  
   - difference of squares ? - perfect square ?  
   yes no yes no  
   *example 2* you cannot *example 3* type   
    factor *see example 4 and 6*  
    type   
    *see example 5 and 7*

**Example 1**

**Example 2**

**Example 3**

**Example 5**

**Example 6**

**Example 4**

**Example 7**

**Example 8**