

Exercise 57

Explain how you identify the like terms in the expression $8a^2 + 4a + 9 - a^2 - 1$.

Solution

Like terms are the ones that have the same variables. The red ones below both have a^2 , the blue ones have a , and the green ones have no variables.

$$8a^2 + 4a + 9 - a^2 - 1$$

The like terms can be combined to simplify the expression.

$$(8a^2 - a^2) + 4a + (9 - 1)$$

$$7a^2 + 4a + 8$$