

Section 5.6: Factoring Trinomials

Sign Rules for Factoring Trinomials

To determine the signs which go in the parentheses:

Look at the sign of the last term in the trinomial.

- If it is positive:
The signs will be alike (+) (+) or (-) (-)
Use the case that matches the middle term.
- If it is negative:
The signs will be different (+) (-)

When factoring a trinomial, your answer will look like this: $(\triangle x + \square)(\triangle x + \square)$

Example 1: