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| **STEPS FOR FACTORING (no matter what kind of polynomial it is.)** | |
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| **Step 2:** | Count the number of terms. |
| **Step 3:** | **A)** 2 terms   * Is it a ***difference of squares***? * Is it a ***difference of two cubes***? * Is it a ***sum of two cubes***? * Is it a ***sum of squares***?   **B)** 3 terms   * Is the coefficient of the term 1? * Use the “Box”. * Is the coefficient of the term different than a 1? * Then use factoring by grouping. * OR Use the “Box”.   **C)** 4 terms   * Use factoring by grouping. (Remember: sometimes we need to rearrange our terms into different pairs.) |
| **Step 4:** | CHECK YOUR WORK! |

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