



Lesson 3: Writing Products as Sums and Sums as Products

Student Outcomes

- Students use an area/rectangular array model and distributive property to write products as sums and sums as products.
- Students use the fact that the opposite of a number is the same as multiplying by -1 to write the opposite of a sum in standard form.
- Students recognize that rewriting an expression in a different form can shed light on the problem and how the quantities in it are related.

Related Topics: [More Lesson Plans for Grade 7 Common Core Math](#)

Classwork

Opening Exercise (5 minutes)

Students should create their own tape diagrams to represent the problem and solution.

Opening Exercise

Solve the problem using a tape diagram. A sum of money was shared between George and Brian in a ratio of 3:4. If the sum of money was \$56.00, how much did George get?

George received \$24

Have students label one unit by “ x ” in the diagram.

- What does the rectangle labeled x represent?
 - 8 units, 8 boxes, or 8 rectangles.

- Draw in 8 smaller rectangles in the unit to represent \$8.



- Is it always necessary to draw in every one unit for all tape diagrams?
 - No, it is unnecessary and tedious most of the time to draw every one unit. Tape diagrams should be representative of problems and should be used as a visual tool to help find unknown quantities.

Students will work independently in their student materials for about five minutes and then share their representations with their neighbors.

Example 1 (3 minutes)

Example 1
 Represent $3 + 2$ using squares for units.

Represent $x + 2$ using the same size square for a unit to the class.

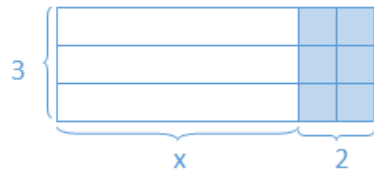
Represent $x + 2$ using the same size square for a unit as above.

- About how big is x ?
 - Approximately six units.

Draw a rectangular array for $3(3 + 2)$.

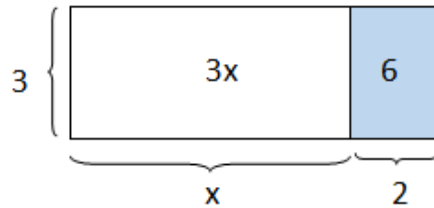
Then, have students draw a similar array for $3(x + 2)$.

Draw an array for $3(x + 2)$.



- How many squares are in the shaded rectangle?
 - 6
- How many rectangles are in the non-shaded rectangle?
 - 3

Record the total number of squares and rectangles in the center of each rectangle:

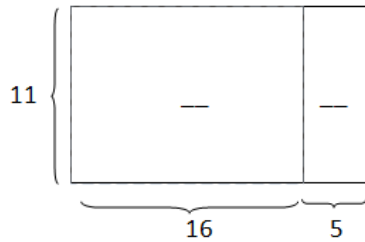


Introduce the term *distributive property* in the Key Terms Box from the Student Materials.

Exercise 1 (3 minutes)

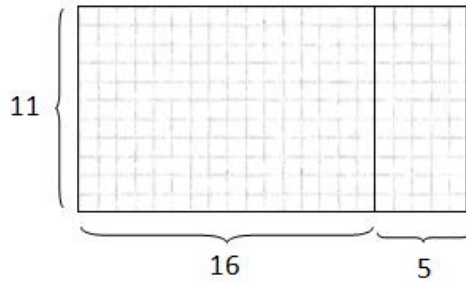
Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks.



Answers: 176, 55

Draw in the squares in the diagram for the students.



- Is it easier to just imagine the 176 and 55 square units?
 - Yes.

Example 2 (5 minutes)

Show students representations of the expressions with tape diagrams/arrays as follows:

a. $(x + y) + (x + y) + (x + y)$



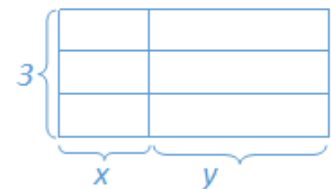
b. $(x + x + x) + (y + y + y)$



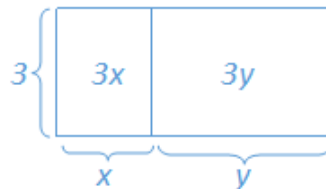
c. $3x + 3y$



Or



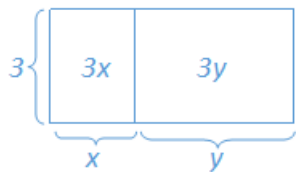
d. $3(x + y)$



Ask students to explain to their neighbors why all of these expressions are equivalent.

Discuss how to rearrange the rectangles representing x and y into each of the configurations above.

- What can we conclude about all of these expressions?
 - *They are all equivalent.*
- How does $3(x + y) = 3x + 3y$?
 - *Three groups of $(x + y)$ is the same as multiplying 3 with the x and the y .*
- How do you know the three representations of the expressions are equivalent?
 - *The arithmetic, algebraic, and graphic representations are equivalent. Problem (c) is the standard form of problems (b) and (d). Problem (a) is the equivalent of problems (b) and (c) before the distributive property is applied. Problem (b) is the expanded form before collecting like terms.*
- Under which conditions would each representation be most useful?
 - *Either $3(x + y)$ or $3x + 3y$ because it is clear to see that there are 3 groups of $(x + y)$ which is the product of the sum of x and y or that the 2^{nd} expression is the sum of $3x$ and $3y$.*
- Which model best represents the distributive property?
 -

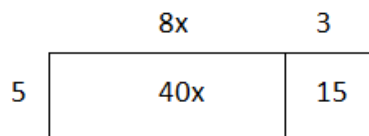


Summarize the distributive property.

Example 3 (5 minutes)

Example 3

Find an equivalent expression by modeling with a rectangular array and applying the distributive property $5(8x + 3)$.



Distribute the factor to all the terms.

Multiply.

Substitute given numerical values to demonstrate equivalency.

$$5(8x + 3) = 5(8(2) + 3) = 5(16 + 3) = 5(19) = 95$$

Both equal 95, so the expressions are equal.



$$5(8x + 3)$$

$$5(8x) + 5(3)$$

$$40x + 15$$

Let $x = 2$

$$40x + 15 = 40(2) + 15 = 80 + 15 = 95$$

Scaffolding:

For the struggling student, draw a rectangular array for $2(5)$. The number of squares in the rectangular array is the product because the factors are 2 and 5. Therefore, $2(5) = 10$ is represented.

Exercise 2 (3 minutes)

Allow students to work on the problems independently and share aloud their equivalent expressions. Substitute numerical values to demonstrate equivalency.

Exercise 2

For parts (a) and (b), draw a model for each expression and apply the distributive property to expand each expression. Substitute the given numerical values to demonstrate equivalency.

a. $2(x + 1), x = 5$

	x	1
2	2x	2

$2x + 2, 12$

b. $10(2c + 5), c = 1$

	2c	5
10	20c	50

$20c + 50, 70$

For parts (c) and (d), apply the distributive property. Substitute the given numerical values to demonstrate equivalency.

c. $3(4f - 1), f = 2$

$12f - 3, 21$

d. $9(-3r - 11), r = 10$

$-27r - 99, -369$

Example 4 (3 minutes)

Example 4

Rewrite the expression, $(6x + 15) \div 3$, as a sum using the distributive property.

Rewrite $\div 3$ as $\times \frac{1}{3}$ $(6x + 15) \times \frac{1}{3}$

Distribute $(6x)\frac{1}{3} + (15)\frac{1}{3}$

Multiply $2x + 5$

Exercise 3 (3 minutes)

Exercise 3

Rewrite the expressions as a sum.

e. $(2b + 12) \div 2$

$b + 6$

f. $(20r - 8) \div 4$

$5r - 2$

g. $(49g - 7) \div 7$

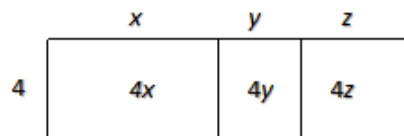
$7g - 1$

Example 5 (3 minutes)

Model the following exercise with the use of rectangular arrays. Discuss:

- What is a verbal explanation of $4(x + y + z)$?
 - *There are 4 groups of the sum of x , y , and z .*

Example 5

Expand the expression $4(x + y + z)$.The expanded expression is $4x + 4y + 4z$

Exercise 4 (3 minutes)

Instruct students to complete the exercise individually.

Exercise 4

Expand the expression from a product to a sum so as to remove grouping symbols using an area model and the repeated use of distributive property: $3(x + 2y + 5z)$.

Repeated use of distributive property:

$$3(x + 2y + 5z)$$

$$3 \cdot x + 3 \cdot 2y + 3 \cdot 5z$$

$$3x + 3 \cdot 2 \cdot y + 3 \cdot 5 \cdot z$$

$$3x + 6y + 15z$$

Visually:

The expanded expression is $3x + 6y + 15z$.

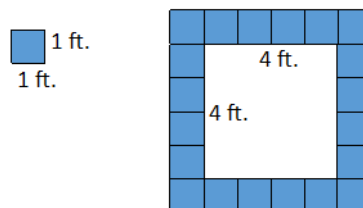
Example 6 (5 minutes)

Read the problem aloud with the class and begin by using different lengths to represent s to come up with expressions with numerical values.

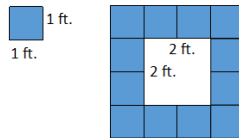
Example 6

A square fountain area with side length s is bordered by a single row of square tiles as shown. Express the total number of tiles needed in terms of s three different ways.

- What if $s = 4$? How many tiles would you need to border the fountain?
 - *There is a need for 20 tiles to border the fountain—four for each side and one for each corner.*



- What if $s = 2$? How many tiles would you need to border the fountain?
 - *There needs to be 12 tiles to border the fountain—two for each side and one for each corner.*



- What pattern/generalization do you notice?
 - *Answers may vary. Sample response: There is one tile for each corner and four times the amount of tiles enough to fit one side length.*

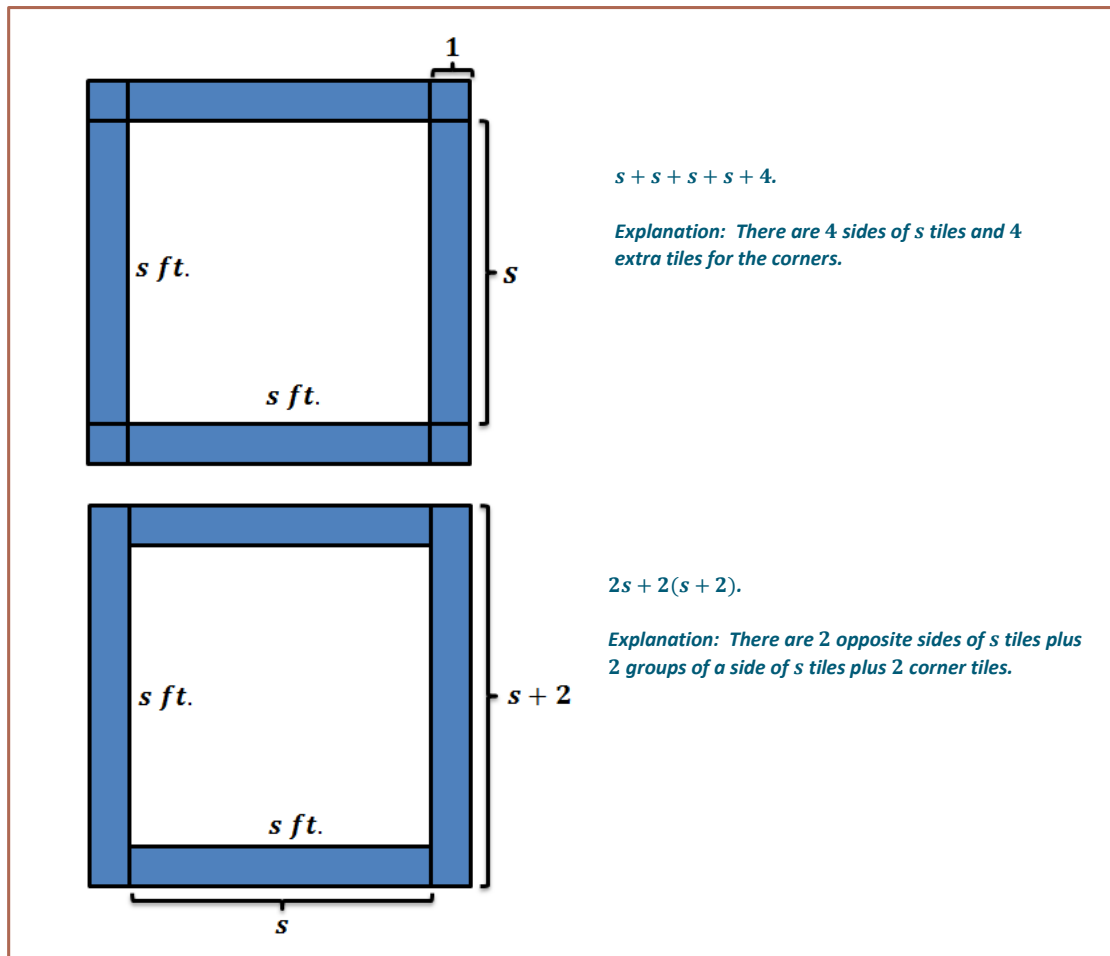
After using numerical values, allow students two minutes to create as many expressions as they can think of to find the total number of tiles in the border in terms of s . Reconvene by asking students to share their expressions with the class from their seat.

Discuss:

- Which expressions would you use and why?
 - *Although all the expressions are equivalent, $4(s + 1)$ or $4s + 4$ is useful because it is the most simplified, concise form. It is in standard form with all like terms collected.*

Sample Responses:

The diagram shows a square fountain with side length s ft. It is surrounded by a border of blue tiles. A bracket on the right side of the border is labeled $s + 1$. To the right of the diagram is a legend showing a blue square labeled "1 ft." on both sides. Below the legend is the expression $4(s + 1)$. Below the expression is the explanation: "Explanation: There are four groups of s tiles plus 1 corner tile."

**Closing (3 minutes)**

- What are some of the methods used to write products as sums?
 - *We used repeated use of the distributive property and rectangular arrays.*
- In terms of a rectangular array and equivalent expressions, what does the product form represent, and what does the sum form represent?
 - *The total area represents the expression written in sum form, and the length and width represent the expressions written in product form.*

Exit Ticket (3 minutes)

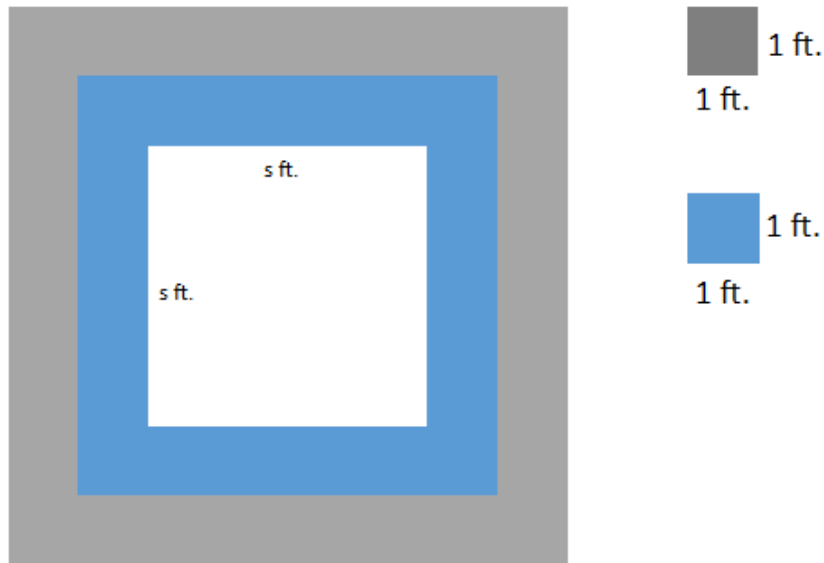
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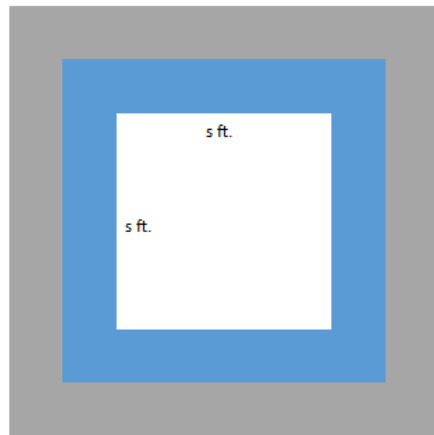
Exit Ticket

A square fountain area with side length s is bordered by two rows of square tiles along its perimeter as shown. Express the total number of grey tiles (only in the second rows) needed in terms of s three different ways.



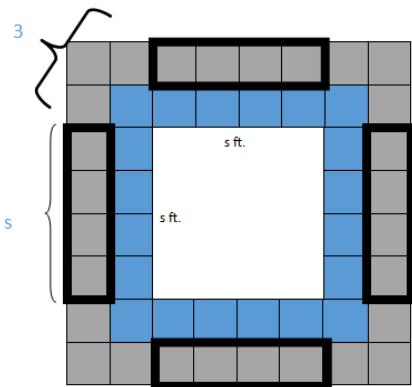
Exit Ticket Sample Solutions

A square fountain area with side length s is bordered by two rows of square tiles along its perimeter as shown. Express the total number of grey tiles (the second border of tiles) needed in terms of s three different ways.

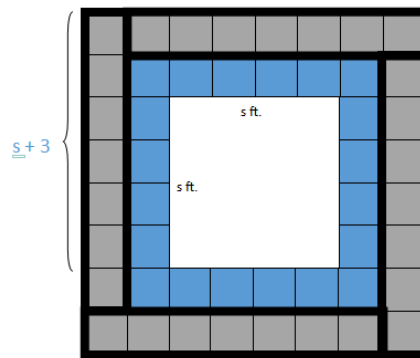


1 ft.
1 ft.

1 ft.
1 ft.



$4s + 4(3)$



$4(s+3)$

or $s + s + s + s + 12$

Problem Set Sample Solutions

1.

a. Write two equivalent expressions that represent the rectangular array below.



$$3(2a + 5) = 6a + 15$$

b. Verify informally that the two equations are equivalent using substitution.

Let $a = 4$.

$3(2a + 5)$	$6a + 15$
$3(2(4) + 5)$	$6(4) + 15$
$3(8 + 5)$	$24 + 15$
$3(13) = 39$	39

2. You and your friend made up a basketball shooting game. Every shot made from the free throw line is worth 3 points, and every shot made from the half-court mark is worth 6 points. Write an equation that represents the total amount of points, P , if f represents the number of shots made from the free throw line, and h represents the number of shots made from half-court. Explain the equation in words.

$$P = 3f + 6h \text{ or } P = 3(f + 2h)$$

The total amount of points can be obtained by multiplying each free throw shot by 3 and adding to each half-court shot multiplied by 6.

The total number of points can also be obtained by adding the number of free throw shots to twice the number of half-court shots, and multiplying the sum by three.

3. Use a rectangular array to write the products as sums.

a. $2(x + 10)$



$$2x + 20$$

b. $3(4b + 12c + 11)$



$$12b + 36c + 33$$

4. Use the distributive property to write the products as sums.

a. $3(2x - 1)$
 $6x - 3$

g. $(40s + 100t) \div 10$
 $4s + 10t$

b. $10(b + 4c)$
 $10b + 40c$

h. $(48p + 24) \div 6$
 $8p + 4$

c. $9(g - 5h)$
 $9g - 45h$

i. $(2b + 12) \div 2$
 $b + 6$

d. $7(4n - 5m - 2)$
 $28n - 35m - 14$

j. $(20r - 8) \div 4$
 $5r - 2$

e. $a(b + c + 1)$
 $ab + ac + a$

k. $(49g - 7) \div 7$
 $7g - 1$

f. $(8j - 3l + 9)6$
 $48j - 18l + 54$

l. $(14g + 22h) \div \frac{1}{2}$
 $28g + 44h$

5. Write the expression in standard form by expanding and collecting like terms.

a. $4(8m - 7n) + 6(3n - 4m)$
 $8m - 10n$

b. $9(r - s) + 5(2r - 2s)$
 $19r - 19s$

c. $12(1 - 3g) + 8(g + f)$
 $-28g + 8f + 12$