Algebra 1 Free Sampler Lesson

Lesson 1.3: Simplifying Expressions with Like Terms

Family Classroom Company | familyclassroomco.com
Audience: Homeschool parents guiding a student into Algebra 1
Time: Day A learn about 20 to 25 minutes; Day B practice about 25 to 30 minutes

What this lesson is for

Your student will learn to combine like terms so messy expressions become clearer. This is a foundation skill for solving equations later.

Before you start

- Pencil, paper, and the student worksheet
- About 10 minutes of quiet focus for the video (or parent walkthrough)
- Optional: a highlighter for marking like terms

Learning goal

By the end, the student can:

1. Spot like terms in an expression
2. Combine like terms correctly (including negatives)
3. Rewrite an expression in a simpler form

Key vocabulary

Term	Meaning	Spanish
Expression	A math phrase with numbers, variables, and operations; no equals sign	expresion algebraica
Term	A piece of an expression separated by + or −	termino
Like terms	Terms with the same variable part (same letters and same exponents)	terminos semejantes
Coefficient	The number in front of a variable	coeficiente
Constant	A number with no variable	constante

Day A: Learn

Warm-up (2 minutes)
Ask: "What do 3 apples and 2 apples make? What about 3 apples and 2 oranges?"
Point: same kind combines; different kind stays separate. Variables work the same way.

Teach (8 to 10 minutes)
Work these three examples out loud with your student.

Example 1: Simplify $5x + 3x$
Same variable, same power → like terms. Add coefficients: 5 + 3 = 8. Result: $8x$

Example 2: Simplify $7y - 2y + 4$
$7y$ and $-2y$ are like terms; 4 is a constant. 7 − 2 = 5 → $5y + 4$

Example 3: Simplify $4a + 3b - a + 2b$
Group a-terms and b-terms: $(4a - a) + (3b + 2b)$. Result: $3a + 5b$

Watch-outs

- x and x^2 are not like terms
- $2x$ and 2 are not like terms (one has x)
- A lone x means $1x$; a lone $-x$ means $-1x$

Quick check

1. Are $6m$ and $2m$ like terms? (Yes)
2. Simplify $9k - 4k$. ($5k$)
3. Simplify $2x + 5 + 3x$. ($5x + 5$)

Close Day A
Student rewrites today's goal in their own words on the worksheet.

Day B: Practice

Student completes the worksheet (12 problems). Parent checks with the answer key. Discuss any miss: ask "which terms did you combine?" before giving the fix.