

Algebra Errors to Avoid!

First & Last Name: _____ Class: _____

Each of the following 16 problems has made a “fatal” algebra error. Describe the error that was made and then correct the right-hand side of the equation.

No.	Equation	Error Description	Corrected Equation
1	$2x - 3y - 4 = 2x - 3y + 4$		
2	$5z + 3(x - 2) = 5z + 3x - 2$		
3	$(5x)(6x) = 30x$		
4	$x(yz) = (xy)(xz)$		
5	$a\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \frac{ax}{ay}$		
6	$(4x)^2 = 4x^2$		
7	$\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^3 = \frac{x^3}{y}$		
8	$\sqrt{25 - x^2} = 5 - x$		

continued...

No.	Equation	Error Description	Corrected Equation
9	$\sqrt{x+9} = \sqrt{x} + 3$		
10	$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2$		
11	$-3^2 = 9$		
12	$x^2 + 3x - 5 - (4x - 5) = x^2 - x - 10$		
13	$\sqrt{7x} = 7x^{1/2}$		
14	$3(2x - 5)^2 = 36x^2 - 180x + 225$		
15	$\sqrt{x+y} = \sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y}$		
16	$x^{-3/2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$		