

Solving Equations by Completing the Square

Solve each equation by completing the square.

1) $a^2 + 2a - 3 = 0$

$a^2 + 2a + \underline{\quad} = 3 + \underline{\quad}$
 $a^2 + 2a + \underline{(1)^2} = 3 + \underline{(1)^2}$
 $(a+1)^2 = 4$
 $\sqrt{(a+1)^2} = \pm\sqrt{4}$
 $a+1 = \pm 2$
 $a = -1 \pm 2$
 $a = -1 + 2 = \boxed{1}$
 $a = -1 - 2 = \boxed{-3}$

2) $a^2 - 2a - 8 = 0$

$a^2 - 2a + \underline{\quad} = 8 + \underline{\quad}$
 $a^2 - 2a + \underline{(-1)^2} = 8 + \underline{(-1)^2}$
 $(a-1)^2 = 9$
 $\sqrt{(a-1)^2} = \pm\sqrt{9}$
 $a-1 = \pm 3$
 $a = 1 \pm 3$
 $a = 1 + 3 = \boxed{4}$
 $a = 1 - 3 = \boxed{-2}$

3) $p^2 + 16p - 22 = 0$

$p^2 + 16p + \underline{\quad} = 22 + \underline{\quad}$
 $p^2 + 16p + \underline{(8)^2} = 22 + \underline{(8)^2}$
 $(p+8)^2 = 86$
 $\sqrt{(p+8)^2} = \pm\sqrt{86}$
 $p+8 = \pm\sqrt{86}$
 $p = -8 \pm\sqrt{86}$

4) $k^2 + 8k + 12 = 0$

$k^2 + 8k + \underline{\quad} = -12 + \underline{\quad}$
 $k^2 + 8k + \underline{(4)^2} = -12 + \underline{(4)^2}$
 $(k+4)^2 = 4$
 $\sqrt{(k+4)^2} = \pm\sqrt{4}$
 $k+4 = \pm 2$
 $k = -4 \pm 2$
 $k = -4 + 2 = \boxed{-2}$
 $k = -4 - 2 = \boxed{-6}$

5) $r^2 + 2r - 33 = 0$

$r^2 + 2r + \underline{\quad} = 33 + \underline{\quad}$
 $r^2 + 2r + \underline{(1)^2} = 33 + \underline{(1)^2}$
 $(r+1)^2 = 34$
 $\sqrt{(r+1)^2} = \pm\sqrt{34}$
 $r+1 = \pm\sqrt{34}$
 $r = -1 \pm\sqrt{34}$

6) $a^2 - 2a - 48 = 0$

$a^2 - 2a + \underline{\quad} = 48 + \underline{\quad}$
 $a^2 - 2a + \underline{(-1)^2} = 48 + \underline{(-1)^2}$
 $(a-1)^2 = 49$
 $\sqrt{(a-1)^2} = \pm\sqrt{49}$
 $a-1 = \pm 7$
 $a = 1 \pm 7$
 $a = 1 + 7 = \boxed{8}$
 $a = 1 - 7 = \boxed{-6}$

7) $m^2 - 12m + 26 = 0$

$m^2 - 12m + \underline{\quad} = -26 + \underline{\quad}$
 $m^2 - 12m + \underline{(-6)^2} = -26 + \underline{(-6)^2}$
 $(m-6)^2 = 10$
 $\sqrt{(m-6)^2} = \pm\sqrt{10}$
 $m-6 = \pm\sqrt{10}$
 $m = 6 \pm\sqrt{10}$

8) $x^2 + 12x + 20 = 0$

$x^2 + 12x + \underline{\quad} = -20 + \underline{\quad}$
 $x^2 + 12x + \underline{(6)^2} = -20 + \underline{(6)^2}$
 $(x+6)^2 = 16$
 $\sqrt{(x+6)^2} = \pm\sqrt{16}$
 $x+6 = \pm 4$
 $x = -6 \pm 4$
 $x = -6 + 4 = \boxed{-2}$
 $x = -6 - 4 = \boxed{-10}$

9) $k^2 - 8k - 48 = 0$

$k^2 - 8k + \underline{\quad} = 48 + \underline{\quad}$
 $k^2 - 8k + \underline{(-4)^2} = 48 + \underline{(-4)^2}$
 $(k-4)^2 = 64$
 $\sqrt{(k-4)^2} = \pm\sqrt{64}$
 $k-4 = \pm 8$
 $k = 4 \pm 8$
 $k = 4 + 8 = \boxed{12}$
 $k = 4 - 8 = \boxed{-4}$

10) $p^2 + 2p - 63 = 0$

$p^2 + 2p + \underline{\quad} = 63 + \underline{\quad}$
 $p^2 + 2p + \underline{(1)^2} = 63 + \underline{(1)^2}$
 $(p+1)^2 = 64$
 $\sqrt{(p+1)^2} = \pm\sqrt{64}$
 $p+1 = \pm 8$
 $p = -1 \pm 8$
 $p = -1 + 8 = \boxed{7}$
 $p = -1 - 8 = \boxed{-9}$

11) $m^2 + 2m - 48 = -6$

$m^2 + 2m + \underline{\quad} = 42 + \underline{\quad}$
 $m^2 + 2m + \underline{(1)^2} = 42 + \underline{(1)^2}$
 $(m+1)^2 = 43$
 $\sqrt{(m+1)^2} = \pm\sqrt{43}$
 $m+1 = \pm\sqrt{43}$
 $m = -1 \pm\sqrt{43}$

12) $p^2 - 8p + 21 = 6$

$p^2 - 8p + \underline{\quad} = -15 + \underline{\quad}$
 $p^2 - 8p + \underline{(-4)^2} = -15 + \underline{(-4)^2}$
 $(p-4)^2 = 1$
 $\sqrt{(p-4)^2} = \pm\sqrt{1}$
 $p-4 = \pm 1$
 $p = 4 \pm 1$
 $p = 4 + 1 = \boxed{5}$
 $p = 4 - 1 = \boxed{3}$