



■ From $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ (*expanded form*) to $y = a(x - h)^2 + k$ (*vertex form*) and vice-versa:

- If you want to rewrite $y = a(x - h)^2 + k$ in the form $y = ax^2 + bx + c$, just expand!
- If you want to rewrite $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ in the form $y = a(x - h)^2 + k$, factorise a and then complete the square (*halve the coefficient of x , square it, add and subtract the result to $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ so a perfect square appears*). The vertex form makes it easy to find the vertex.

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| <p>Particular case of FOIL: Perfect Squares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Square of a sum: $(A + B)^2 = A^2 + 2AB + B^2$ ○ Square of a difference: $(A - B)^2 = A^2 - 2AB + B^2$ | <p>E.g. : $(x + 3)^2 = x^2 + 6x + 9$ (Use the <i>Square of a sum</i> formula with $A = x$ and $B = 3$)</p> <p>E.g. : $(3x - 7)^2 = 9x^2 - 42x + 49$ (use <i>Square of a difference</i> formula with $A = 3x$ and $B = 7$)</p> |
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○ **Exercise 1.** Use the perfect square formulas to rewrite the following parabolas in expanded form:

| | Expanded form | Vertex form | The vertex is ... |
|-------|---|-----------------------|---|
| (i) | <p>Eg. $y = (x + 2)^2 - 3 = x^2 + 4x + 4 - 3$. <i>Expand using the perfect square formula.</i> The expanded form is $y = x^2 + 4x + 1$.</p> | $y = (x + 2)^2 - 3$ | <p>$V(-2, -3)$ <i>Can be read from the expanded form. Can be checked using $x_V = -\frac{b}{2a}$.</i></p> |
| (ii) | | $y = (x - 3)^2 + 5$ | |
| (iii) | | $y = (x + 7)^2 - 30$ | |
| (iv) | | $y = 2(x + 5)^2 - 20$ | |

○ **Exercise 2.** Complete the square to rewrite the following parabolas in vertex form:

| | Expanded form | Vertex form | The vertex is ... |
|-------|--------------------------|---|--|
| (i) | Eg. $y = x^2 + 6x + 5$. | $\frac{6}{2} = 3 \text{ and } 3^2 = 9 \text{ so}$ $x^2 + 6x + 5 = x^2 + 2 \times 3 \times x + 3^2 - 3^2 + 5$ $= (x+3)^2 - 9 + 5 = (x+3)^2 - 4$ <p>[complete the square : halve the coefficient of x (get 3), square it, add and subtract the result to $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ so a perfect square appears]</p> <p>→ The vertex form is $y = (x + 3)^2 - 4$.</p> | $V(-3, -4)$ <i>Can be read from the expanded form. Can be checked using $x_v = -\frac{b}{2a}$.</i> |
| (ii) | $y = x^2 + 2x - 5$ | | |
| (iii) | $y = x^2 + 6x + 13$ | | |
| (iv) | $y = x^2 - 8x + 10$ | | |
| (v) | $y = x^2 + 3x + 10$ | | |

ANSWERS

○ **Exercise 1.** Use the perfect square formulas to rewrite the following parabolas in expanded form:

| | Expanded form | Vertex form | The vertex is ... |
|-------|--|-----------------------|--|
| (i) | Eg. $y = (x + 2)^2 - 3 = x^2 + 4x + 4 - 3$. <i>Expand using the perfect square formula.</i> The expanded form is $y = x^2 + 4x + 1$. | $y = (x + 2)^2 - 3$ | $V(-2, -3)$ <i>Can be read from the expanded form. Can be checked using $x_V = -\frac{b}{2a}$.</i> |
| (ii) | $y = x^2 - 6x + 14$ | $y = (x - 3)^2 + 5$ | $V(3, 5)$ |
| (iii) | $y = x^2 + 14x + 19$ | $y = (x + 7)^2 - 30$ | $V(-7, -30)$ |
| (iv) | $y = 2(x^2 + 10x + 25) - 20$ so $y = 2x^2 + 20x + 30$ | $y = 2(x + 5)^2 - 20$ | $V(-5, -20)$ |

○ **Exercise 2.** Complete the square to rewrite the following parabolas in vertex form:

| | Expanded form | Vertex form | The vertex is ... |
|-------|--------------------------|--|--|
| (i) | Eg. $y = x^2 + 6x + 5$. | $\frac{6}{2} = 3$ and $3^2 = 9$ so $x^2 + 6x + 5 = x^2 + 2 \times 3 \times x + 3^2 - 3^2 + 5$ $= (x + 3)^2 - 9 + 5 = (x + 3)^2 - 4$ [complete the square : halve the coefficient of x (get 3), square it, add and subtract the result to $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ so a perfect square appears] → The vertex form is $y = (x + 3)^2 - 4$. | $V(-3, -4)$ <i>Can be read from the expanded form. Can be checked using $x_V = -\frac{b}{2a}$.</i> |
| (ii) | $y = x^2 + 2x - 5$ | $\frac{2}{2} = 1$ and $1^2 = 1$ so $y = x^2 + 2x + 1 - 1 - 5$ $y = (x + 1)^2 - 6$ | $V(-1, -6)$ |
| (iii) | $y = x^2 + 6x + 13$ | $\frac{6}{2} = 3$ and $3^2 = 9$ so $y = x^2 + 6x + 9 - 9 + 13$ $y = (x + 3)^2 + 4$ | $V(-3, 4)$ |
| (iv) | $y = x^2 - 8x + 10$ | $-\frac{8}{2} = -4$ and $(-4)^2 = 16$ so $y = x^2 - 8x + 16 - 16 + 10$ $= (x - 4)^2 - 6$ | $V(4, -6)$ |
| (v) | $y = x^2 + 3x + 10$ | half the coeff of $x = \frac{3}{2}$ and $(\frac{3}{2})^2 = \frac{9}{4}$ so $y = x^2 + 3x + \frac{9}{4} - \frac{9}{4} + 10$ $y = (x + \frac{3}{2})^2 - \frac{9}{4} + 10 = (x + \frac{3}{2})^2 + \frac{31}{4}$ | $V(-\frac{3}{2}, +\frac{31}{4})$ |