Combining like terms:
  like terms — same variable w/ the same exponent
  combine — + or − the coefficients, keep variable & exponent

Put polynomial in standard form

Put $0x^{\square}$ for a place holder for any missing terms

Use the vertical method to line up polynomials vertically

Example 1
  $(9w^3 + 8w^2) + (7w^3 + 4)$

Example 2
  $(4x^2 + 5x + 1) - (6x^2 + x + 8)$

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Adding & Subtracting Polynomials

Combining like terms:
like terms — same variable w/ the same expone[nt]
combine — + or - the coefficients, keep variabl[e]

If $3x^5 + 5x^3 - 2 + x^2 \longrightarrow 3x^5 + 0x^4 + 5x^3 + x^2 + 0x - 2$ *exponents should decrease by 1

Add/subtract like terms

$w^3 + 8w^2) + (7w^3 + 4)$

$$\begin{array}{r} 9w^3 + 8w^2 + 0w + 0 \\ + \ 7w^3 + 0w^2 + 0w + 4 \\ \hline \boxed{16w^3 + 8w^2 + 4} \end{array}$$

$+5x + 1) - (6x^2 + x + 8)$

$$\begin{array}{r} 4x^2 + 5x + 1 \\ - \ 6x^2 + x + 8 \\ \hline \boxed{-2x^2 + 4x - 7} \end{array}$$

*subtract EVERY term!