Alec was looking at a pattern of square numbers when he discovered a math trick.

He wanted to figure out how this trick worked, so he used deductive reasoning to make the argument below:

1. Let n = any number

2. Observation: $(n + 1) \cdot (n - 1) = n^2 - 1$

3. $(n + 1) \cdot (n - 1) = n^2 - n + n - 1 = n^2 - 1$

According to his argument above, which of the following tricks did he discover?