

Although the product of the first terms is  $64a^2$ , and the product of the last terms is 9, the outer and inner products do not add up to  $-48a$ . The first step is to determine if this a perfect square trinomial. Then you can use the fact that a trinomial in the form  $r^2 - 2rs + s^2$  can be factored as  $(r - s)^2$ .