

You may have seen the perfect squares 25 and 36, disregarded the term $8x$, and thought the equation could be rewritten as $(x + 5)^2 = 6^2$. You need to start with the middle term $8x$, and use this to determine how to complete the square. In particular, you have to rewrite the equation so that the left side is $x^2 + 8x + 16$, then take square roots of both sides and solve for x .