

You may have recognized that  $7^2 = 49$ , but  $9(x + 7)^2 = 9(x^2 + 14x + 49)$ , which is not equal to the given trinomial. A trinomial in the form  $r^2 + 2rs + s^2$  can be factored as  $(r + s)^2$ . Remember that  $9x^2 = (3x)^2$  and  $49 = 7^2$ .