

You may have seen the perfect squares 9 and 16, disregarded the term  $10x$ , and thought the equation could be rewritten as  $(x + 3)^2 = 4^2$ . You need to start with the middle term  $10x$ , and use this to determine how to complete the square. In particular, you have to rewrite the equation so that the left side is  $x^2 + 10x + 25$ , then take square roots of both sides and solve for  $x$ .