Factoring: When Do I Do What?

Common Numbers and/or Letters

X^2 and Three Terms

X^2, minus, and Two Perfect Squares

When all else fails!

GCF

Ex: $5x + 10$

$V^2 + 4v$

$5x^2y^3 - 15x^3y$

Reverse FOIL

Ex: $x^2 + 6x + 8$

$X^2 - 8x - 20$

$X^2 - 5x - 36$

D.O.S

(Difference of Squares)

Ex: $x^2 - 25$

$x^2 - 100y^2$

$16x^2 - 81y^4$

Quad-ratic Formula

Ex: $2x^2 - 3x + 17$

$5x^2 - x + 23$

$-3x^2 + 38$