Equivalent Expressions

Different look, **same value**

Simplify

- Combine **like terms**: same variable, same power

$$4a + 3 - a + 2b + 5$$

$$(4a - a) + 2b + (3 + 5)$$

$$3a + 2b + 8$$

Expand

- **Distribute**: multiply the outside number by every term inside

$$5(2x + 3)$$

$$5 \cdot 2x + 5 \cdot 3$$

$$10x + 15$$

Test it: plug in x = 1 to both. If the answers match, the expressions are equivalent.