

### Combining Like Terms Puzzle

Simplify each expression by combining like terms. Write the simplified expression in the box below each original expression. Locate the simplified expression at the bottom of the page, then write the letter on the appropriate line below to spell out the secret message. (Some letters may be used more than once.) **If the message does not make sense, you've made at least one mistake. Find your mistake and fix your work!**

**Did you hear the one about the acupuncture?**

$\frac{1}{2}$        $\frac{3}{4}$        $\frac{5}{6}$        $\frac{7}{8}$        $\frac{9}{10}$   
 $\frac{11}{12}$        $\frac{13}{14}$        $\frac{15}{16}$        $\frac{17}{17}$  !

1. $2m + 3m^2 - 4m$	2. $2x + x - 4y$	3. $2m + 4m - 3m^2$	4. $2y + 14x - 7x + 9y$
5. $8n - 4n^2 + 8n$	6. $11g - 9g + 8g$	7. $3m^2 - 2m + 4m$	8. $20 + 10q + 3q - 4$
9. $4xy + x + 2xy$	10. $6m^2 + 6m - 9m^2$	11. $3n - 6mn + 2n$	12. $\frac{3}{2}x - y + \frac{1}{2}x + 3y$
13. $y + x + y + x$	14. $8n + 4n^2 - 8n$	15. $5 + 5mn - 11mn$	16. $15y + 6y - 3x + xy$
17. $3xy - 5xy + 21y$			

I. $3m^2 - 2m$ S. $-4n^2 + 16n$ E. $-2xy + 21y$ O. $-6mn + 5$ T. $3x - 4y$	N. $-3x + xy + 21y$ W. $-3m^2 + 6m$ J. $3m^2 + 2m$ B. $x + 6xy$ A. $10g$	A. $7x + 11y$ E. $-6mn + 5n$ A. $13q + 16$ L. $2x + 2y$ D. $4n^2$
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