Identifying Expression Structures

Today's Standard

HSA.SSE.A2 - Use the structure of an expression to identify ways to rewrite it. For example, see x - y as $(x^2)^2$ - $(y^2)^2$, thus recognizing it as a difference of squares that can be factored as (x2 - y2)(x2 + y2).

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Simplifying complex algebraic expressions; Solving polynomial equations; Engineering calculations involving stress and strain; Financial modeling and forecasting; Computer algorithms for data compression

Today I Learned

Today, we learned how to look at math expressions and find ways to rewrite them. For example, we can change x - y into something easier to work with.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Some kids think that x - y can't be changed, but it can. Another problem is mixing up when to use different math rules for different kinds of problems.

Quiz Me

- What is an expression?
- Can x - y be changed?
- What does $(x^2)^2$ mean?
- What is a difference of squares?
- Why is it important to change expressions?

Help Me

This math idea helps us change hard problems into easier ones. For example, in building things or making computer programs, we can use these math tricks to make our work simpler.