When finished with STEPS 0 and 1, think about the number of terms you have left in the

If it is a BINOMIAL (2 terms), then refer to STEP 2.

If it is a TRINOMIAL (3 terms), then refer to STEP 3.

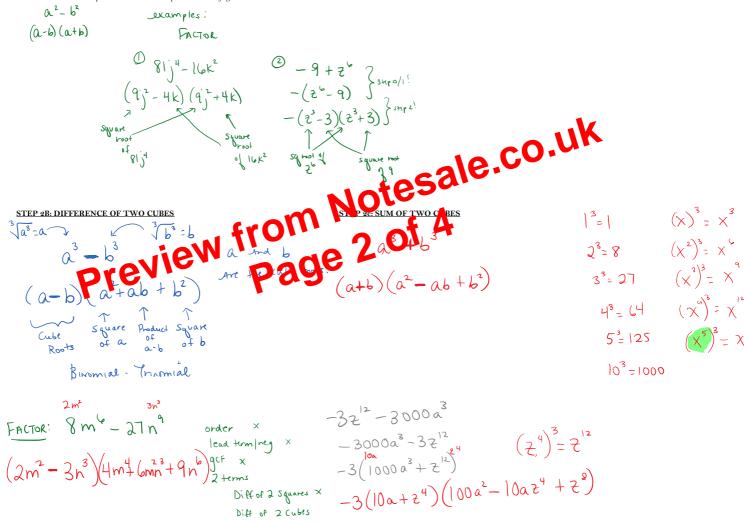
If it is a 4 TERM POLYNOMIAL (4 terms), then refer to STEP 4.

STEP 2: FACTORING BINOMIALS!

- · There are only three ways to factor binomials.
- They are ALL special patterns.
- Follow the order of the special patterns:
 (A) First check for DIFFERENCE OF TWO SQUARES
 - (B) Second check for DIFFERENCE OF TWO CUBES.
 - \circ $\,$ (C) Third check for SUM OF TWO CUBES.
- . If the binomial does not fit into one of these three categories, then it CANNOT be factored.

STEP 2A - Difference of 2 Squares

The difference of two squares factors into the product of conjugates!



STEP 3 - Factoring TRINOMIALS

STEP 3A - PERFECT SQUARE TRINOMIAL FACTORS INTO THE SQUARE OF BINOMIAL.

$$a^{2} + 2ab + b^{2}$$
 $a^{2} - 2ab + b^{2}$ bbz

$$(a+b)^{2}$$

$$(a-b)^{2}$$

$$x^{2} + 12x + 3b$$

$$|2| + 2^{2} - 33z + 6$$