



# Properties of Multiplication

Use with section 1.5

## Multiplication Property of 0

The product of 0 and any number is 0.

For example,

$$5 \cdot 0 = 0$$

$$0 \cdot 8 = 0$$

$$a \cdot 0 = 0$$

$$0 \cdot b = 0$$

## Multiplication Property of 1 (Identity Property of Multiplication)

The product of 1 and any number is that same number.

For example,

$$5 \cdot 1 = 5$$

$$1 \cdot 3 = 3$$

$$a \cdot 1 = a$$

$$1 \cdot b = b$$

## Commutative Property of Multiplication

Changing the order of factors does not change their product.

For example,

$$(a) 3 \cdot 4 = 12$$

$$4 \cdot 3 = 12$$

$$3 \cdot 4 = 4 \cdot 3$$

$$a \cdot b = b \cdot a$$

$$(b) 5 \cdot 7 = 35$$

$$7 \cdot 5 = 35$$

$$5 \cdot 7 = 7 \cdot 5$$

$$ab = ba$$

### Example 1.

Use the Commutative Property of Multiplication to rewrite each of the following products.

$$(a) 2 \cdot 6$$

$$(b) 3 \cdot 7$$

$$(c) 5 \cdot n$$

$$(d) (5 \cdot 1) \cdot 4$$

$$(e) (2 \cdot 3) \cdot 4$$

### Solution:

$$(a) 2 \cdot 6 = 6 \cdot 2$$

$$(b) 3 \cdot 7 = 7 \cdot 3$$

$$(c) 5 \cdot n = n \cdot 5$$

$$(d) (5 \cdot 1) \cdot 4 = 4 \cdot (5 \cdot 1)$$

$$(e) (2 \cdot 3) \cdot 4 = 4 \cdot (2 \cdot 3)$$

## Associative Property of Multiplication

Changing the grouping of factors does not change their product.

For example,

$$2 \cdot (3 \cdot 4) = 2 \cdot 12 = 24$$

$$(2 \cdot 3) \cdot 4 = 6 \cdot 4 = 24$$

$$2 \cdot (3 \cdot 4) = (2 \cdot 3) \cdot 4$$

$$a \cdot (b \cdot c) = (a \cdot b) \cdot c$$

$$a(bc) = (ab)c$$

### Example 2.

Use the Associative Property of Multiplication to rewrite each product.

$$(a) 4 \cdot (5 \cdot 6)$$

$$(b) (0 \cdot 2) \cdot 3$$

$$(c) (a \cdot 4) \cdot 5$$

### Solution:

$$(a) 4 \cdot (5 \cdot 6) = (4 \cdot 5) \cdot 6$$

$$(b) (0 \cdot 2) \cdot 3 = 0 \cdot (2 \cdot 3)$$

$$(c) (a \cdot 4) \cdot 5 = a \cdot (4 \cdot 5)$$