

**Winter 2009: Errors in the MyMathLab video lectures for  
Blitzer's Introductory and Intermediate Algebra for College Students (3rd ed)**

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ERROR IN VIDEO 5.4

After finding the coefficients and degrees of a polynomial, the presenter works problems where polynomials are added/subtracted. One of the examples has a sign error.

$$(6st^2 - 8s + 9st + 2t) + (3s - 18st - t) - (4st^2 + 2t - 5s)$$

$$6st^2 - 8s + 9st + 2t + 3s - 18st - t - 4st^2 - 2t + 5s$$

$$6st^2 - 4st^2 - 8s + 3s + 5s + 9st - 18st + 2t - t - 2t$$

But the video erroneously has a last term of +2t rather than -2t.

$$2st^2 - 9st - t \text{ is the correct answer}$$

But the video erroneously has a last term of +3t rather than -t.

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ERROR IN VIDEO 6.5

The presenter of the video was showing examples of factoring and she presented this problem:

$$\begin{aligned} 27x^3 - 18x^2 - 3x & \quad \text{She correctly pulls out a GCF of } 3x. \\ = 3x(9x^2 - 6x - 1) & \quad \text{Then she states that this trinomial is a "perfect square trinomial" which it is not.} \\ = x(3x-1)^2 & \quad \leftarrow \text{This answer she gets is WRONG WRONG WRONG.} \end{aligned}$$

In fact  $9x^2 - 6x - 1$  is PRIME. Further, if you check  $(3x-1)^2$  by FOILING  $(3x-1)(3x-1)$  you get a +1 constant term not -1. Also she completely lost the "3" from the "3x", ugh!

I think she meant to show the example of:  $27x^3 - 18x^2 + 3x$

This factors down to:  $3x(9x^2 - 6x + 1)$  This trinomial is a "perfect square trinomial".

And the final factored form would then have been:  $3x(3x-1)^2$

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### ERROR IN VIDEO 7.2

As given:  $3x^2-6x$  over  $6x^2-24$  is divided by the fraction  $3x^2+x$  over  $x+2$ .

I agree on the first division example she has  $3x^2+x$  and then on the next "page" she factors that into  $3x(x+1)$  --- WRONG! Either she should have factored  $3x^2+x$  into  $x(3x+1)$  or the original problem should have had  $3x^2+3x$ .

The original problem as written should have had the answer  $1/(6x+2)$ .

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### ERROR IN VIDEO 8.3

Near the end of the video, on the last part of the last example, Ms. White makes a typo. She is evaluating the product  $fg$  at  $x=-4$  but she mistypes a coefficient in function  $f$ .

The given functions are  $f(x)=x^2-2x$  and  $g(x)=x+3$ .

When working  $fg(-4)$  she writes  $(-4)^2-4(-4)$  for the  $f(-4)$  part but the  $-4$  coefficient in the  $f$ -function should have been  $-2$ . The corrected problem is:

$$\begin{aligned} fg(-4) &= f(-4) * g(-4) \\ &= [(-4)^2 - 2(-4)] * [(-4) + 3] \\ &= [16 + 8] [-4 + 3] \\ &= 24 * -1 \\ &= -24 \end{aligned}$$

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