Name: _____

Parts of Algebraic Expressions & Equations

Unlike numerical expressions, **algebraic expressions** contain one or more unknown quantity called a variable. **Variables** are represented by letters.

Terms are numbers, variables, or a combination of numbers and variables. All expressions contain at least one term. Multiple terms are separated from one another by + or − signs.

A **coefficient** is the numerical factor a variable is multiplied by. Any term containing a variable also contains a coefficient. If there is no numeral in front of a variable, its coefficient is 1.

Constants are terms without variables. The value of a constant does not change.

coefficients   variables   constant   exponent

each other. They must contain one or more variable.

coefficient   variable   constants

$$\frac{1}{2}z - 24 = 12$$

expression   expression

equation

If two expressions are instead compared using a < or > sign, it is called an **algebraic inequality**.