

Our website has 4 levels of factoring, but that is just a way I've thought about it. It's not necessary to perceive factoring as having four levels and the written word on factoring does not break factoring into 4 levels. Rather most textbooks talking about two situations with respect to factoring:

1. When  $a = 1$  (by the way, this is level 3 in the videos)
2. When  $a > 1$  (by the way, this is level 4 in the videos)

There are three famous methods for factoring.

To read about the **trial and error method**, click the link below:

[Trial and error method  \$a = 1\$](#)

[Trial and error method  \$a > 1\$](#)

To read about the **area model method** (which is basically trial and error with a diagram), click the link below:

Area model method  $a = 1$

Area model method  $a > 1$

Just watch the videos for the area model, not any good written explanations.

To read about the **split the middle** (or “ac method”) method, click the link below:

Split the middle method  $a = 1$

[Split the middle method  \$a > 1\$](#)

Split the middle is the same method regardless of the value of  $a$ , so only one link is provided.