

BINOMIAL EXPANSION

A BINOMIAL EXPANSION FOR $n = 2$ AND $n = 3$

A.1 EXPANDING PERFECT SQUARE BINOMIALS (ADDITION)

Ex 1: Expand and simplify

$$(x + 2)^2 = \boxed{x^2 + 4x + 4}$$

Answer: In the perfect squares expansion, we substitute $a = x$ and $b = 2$:

$$\begin{aligned}(x + 2)^2 &= x^2 + 2 \times x \times 2 + 2^2 \\ &= x^2 + 4x + 4\end{aligned}$$

Ex 2: Expand and simplify

$$(3 + x)^2 = \boxed{9 + 6x + x^2}$$

Answer: In the perfect squares expansion, we substitute $a = 3$ and $b = x$:

$$\begin{aligned}(3 + x)^2 &= 3^2 + 2 \times 3 \times x + x^2 \\ &= x^2 + 6x + 9\end{aligned}$$

Ex 3: Expand and simplify

$$(2x + 1)^2 = \boxed{4x^2 + 4x + 1}$$

Answer: In the perfect squares expansion, we substitute $a = 2x$ and $b = 1$:

$$\begin{aligned}(2x + 1)^2 &= (2x)^2 + 2 \times 2x \times 1 + (1)^2 \\ &= 2^2x^2 + 4x + 1 \\ &= 4x^2 + 4x + 1\end{aligned}$$

Ex 4: Expand and simplify

$$(2 + 3x)^2 = \boxed{4 + 12x + 9x^2}$$

Answer: In the perfect squares expansion, we substitute $a = 2$ and $b = 3x$:

$$\begin{aligned}(2 + 3x)^2 &= 2^2 + 2 \times 2 \times 3x + (3x)^2 \\ &= 4 + 12x + 3^2x^2 \\ &= 9x^2 + 12x + 4\end{aligned}$$

A.2 EXPANDING PERFECT SQUARE BINOMIALS (SUBTRACTION)

Ex 5: Expand and simplify

$$(x - 2)^2 = \boxed{x^2 - 4x + 4}$$

Answer: In the perfect squares expansion, we substitute $a = x$ and $b = 2$:

$$\begin{aligned}(x - 2)^2 &= x^2 - 2 \times x \times 2 + 2^2 \\ &= x^2 - 4x + 4\end{aligned}$$

Ex 6: Expand and simplify

$$(3 - x)^2 = \boxed{9 - 6x + x^2}$$

Answer: In the perfect squares expansion, we substitute $a = 3$ and $b = x$:

$$\begin{aligned}(3 - x)^2 &= 3^2 - 2 \times 3 \times x + x^2 \\ &= x^2 - 6x + 9\end{aligned}$$

Ex 7: Expand and simplify

$$(2x - 1)^2 = \boxed{4x^2 - 4x + 1}$$

Answer: In the perfect squares expansion, we substitute $a = 2x$ and $b = 1$:

$$\begin{aligned}(2x - 1)^2 &= (2x)^2 - 2 \times 2x \times 1 + (1)^2 \\ &= 4x^2 - 4x + 1\end{aligned}$$

Ex 8: Expand and simplify

$$(2 - 3x)^2 = \boxed{4 - 12x + 9x^2}$$

Answer: In the perfect squares expansion, we substitute $a = 2$ and $b = 3x$:

$$\begin{aligned}(2 - 3x)^2 &= 2^2 - 2 \times 2 \times 3x + (3x)^2 \\ &= 9x^2 - 12x + 4\end{aligned}$$

A.3 EXPANDING PERFECT CUBE BINOMIALS (ADDITION)

Ex 9: Expand and simplify

$$(x + 1)^3 = \boxed{x^3 + 3x^2 + 3x + 1}$$

Answer: In the perfect cubes expansion, we substitute $a = x$ and $b = 1$:

$$\begin{aligned}(x + 1)^3 &= x^3 + 3 \times x^2 \times 1 + 3 \times x \times 1^2 + 1^3 \\ &= x^3 + 3x^2 + 3x + 1\end{aligned}$$

Ex 10: Expand and simplify

$$(x + 3)^3 = \boxed{x^3 + 9x^2 + 27x + 27}$$

Answer: In the perfect cubes expansion, we substitute $a = x$ and $b = 3$:

$$\begin{aligned}(x + 3)^3 &= x^3 + 3 \times x^2 \times 3 + 3 \times x \times 3^2 + 3^3 \\ &= x^3 + 9x^2 + 27x + 27\end{aligned}$$

Ex 11: Expand and simplify

$$(2x + 2)^3 = \boxed{8x^3 + 24x^2 + 24x + 8}$$

Answer: In the perfect cubes expansion, we substitute $a = 2x$ and $b = 2$:

$$\begin{aligned}(2x + 2)^3 &= (2x)^3 + 3 \times (2x)^2 \times 2 + 3 \times 2x \times (2)^2 + (2)^3 \\ &= 8x^3 + 24x^2 + 24x + 8\end{aligned}$$

Ex 12: Expand and simplify

$$(2x + 3)^3 = \boxed{8x^3 + 36x^2 + 54x + 27}$$

Answer: In the perfect cubes expansion, we substitute $a = 2x$ and $b = 3$:

$$\begin{aligned}(2x + 3)^3 &= (2x)^3 + 3 \times (2x)^2 \times 3 + 3 \times 2x \times (3)^2 + (3)^3 \\ &= 8x^3 + 36x^2 + 54x + 27\end{aligned}$$

A.4 EXPANDING PERFECT CUBE BINOMIALS (SUBTRACTION)

Ex 13: Expand and simplify

$$(x - 1)^3 = \boxed{x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x - 1}$$

Answer: In the perfect cubes expansion, we substitute $a = x$ and $b = (-1)$:

$$\begin{aligned}(x + (-1))^3 &= x^3 + 3 \times x^2 \times (-1) + 3 \times x \times ((-1))^2 + ((-1))^3 \\ &= x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x - 1\end{aligned}$$

Ex 14: Expand and simplify

$$(x - 2)^3 = \boxed{x^3 - 6x^2 + 12x - 8}$$

Answer: In the perfect cubes expansion, we substitute $a = x$ and $b = (-2)$:

$$\begin{aligned}(x + (-2))^3 &= x^3 + 3 \times x^2 \times (-2) + 3 \times x \times (-2)^2 + (-2)^3 \\ &= x^3 - 6x^2 + 12x - 8\end{aligned}$$

Ex 15: Expand and simplify

$$(3 - x)^3 = \boxed{27 - 27x + 9x^2 - x^3}$$

Answer: In the perfect cubes expansion, we substitute $a = 3$ and $b = (-x)$:

$$\begin{aligned}(3 + (-x))^3 &= 3^3 + 3 \times 3^2 \times (-x) + 3 \times 3 \times ((-x))^2 + ((-x))^3 \\ &= 27 - 27x + 9x^2 - x^3\end{aligned}$$

Ex 16: Expand and simplify

$$(2x - 1)^3 = \boxed{8x^3 - 12x^2 + 6x - 1}$$

Answer: In the perfect cubes expansion, we substitute $a = 2x$ and $b = (-1)$:

$$\begin{aligned}(2x + (-1))^3 &= (2x)^3 + 3 \times (2x)^2 \times (-1) + 3 \times 2x \times ((-1))^2 + ((-1))^3 \\ &= 8x^3 - 12x^2 + 6x - 1\end{aligned}$$

B PASCAL'S TRIANGLE

B.1 BUILDING PASCAL'S TRIANGLE

Ex 17: Write down the first five rows of Pascal's triangle.

Answer:

		1		1			row 1
	1		2		1		row 2
1		3		3		1	row 3
1	4		6		4	1	row 4
1	5	10		10	5	1	row 5

Ex 18: Write down the first six rows of Pascal's triangle.

Answer:

			1			1				row 1
		1		2		1				row 2
	1		3		3		1			row 3
1		4		6		4		1		row 4
1	5		10		10	5		1		row 5
1	6	15		20		15	6	1		row 6

B.2 USING THE FOURTH ROW OF PASCAL'S TRIANGLE

Ex 19: Use Pascal's triangle to find the coefficients of the expansion of $(a + b)^4$, then expand and simplify.

Answer: From the 4th row of Pascal's triangle, the coefficients are

$$1, 4, 6, 4, 1.$$

So

$$(a + b)^4 = a^4 + 4a^3b + 6a^2b^2 + 4ab^3 + b^4.$$

Ex 20: Use Pascal's triangle to expand and simplify:

$$(x - 1)^4 = \boxed{x^4 - 4x^3 + 6x^2 - 4x + 1}$$

Answer: From the 4th row of Pascal's triangle, the coefficients are

$$1, 4, 6, 4, 1.$$

So

$$(x - 1)^4 = x^4 - 4x^3 + 6x^2 - 4x + 1.$$

Ex 21: Use Pascal's triangle to expand and simplify

$$(2x - 1)^4 = \boxed{16x^4 - 32x^3 + 24x^2 - 8x + 1}$$

Answer: Using the coefficients 1, 4, 6, 4, 1 from the 4th row:

$$\begin{aligned}(2x - 1)^4 &= 1 \cdot (2x)^4 + 4 \cdot (2x)^3(-1) + 6 \cdot (2x)^2(-1)^2 \\ &\quad + 4 \cdot (2x)(-1)^3 + 1 \cdot (-1)^4 \\ &= 16x^4 - 32x^3 + 24x^2 - 8x + 1.\end{aligned}$$

B.3 USING THE FIFTH ROW OF PASCAL'S TRIANGLE

Ex 22: Use Pascal's triangle to find the coefficients of the expansion of $(a + b)^5$, then expand and simplify.

Answer:

				1			1				row 1
		1		2		1					row 2
	1		3		3		1				row 3
1		4		6		4		1			row 4
1	5		10		10	5		1			row 5

From the 5th row of Pascal's triangle, the coefficients are

$$1, 5, 10, 10, 5, 1.$$

So

$$(a + b)^5 = a^5 + 5a^4b + 10a^3b^2 + 10a^2b^3 + 5ab^4 + b^5.$$

Ex 23: Use Pascal's triangle to expand and simplify:

$$(x + 1)^5 = \boxed{x^5 + 5x^4 + 10x^3 + 10x^2 + 5x + 1}$$

Answer: From the 5th row of Pascal's triangle, the coefficients are

$$1, 5, 10, 10, 5, 1.$$

So

$$(x + 1)^5 = x^5 + 5x^4 + 10x^3 + 10x^2 + 5x + 1.$$

Ex 24: Use Pascal's triangle to expand and simplify:

$$(x-1)^5 = x^5 - 5x^4 + 10x^3 - 10x^2 + 5x - 1$$

Answer: From the 5th row of Pascal's triangle, the coefficients are

$$1, 5, 10, 10, 5, 1.$$

Because of the minus sign in $(x-1)$, the signs of the terms will alternate:

$$(x-1)^5 = 1(x)^5(-1)^0 + 5(x)^4(-1)^1 + 10(x)^3(-1)^2 + 10(x)^2(-1)^3 + 5(x)^1(-1)^4 + 1(x)^0(-1)^5$$

$$= x^5 - 5x^4 + 10x^3 - 10x^2 + 5x - 1.$$

Ex 25: Use Pascal's triangle to expand and simplify:

$$(2-x)^5 = -x^5 + 10x^4 - 40x^3 + 80x^2 - 80x + 32$$

Answer: From the 5th row of Pascal's triangle, the coefficients are

$$1, 5, 10, 10, 5, 1.$$

So

$$(2-x)^5 = 2^5 - 5 \cdot 2^4x + 10 \cdot 2^3x^2 - 10 \cdot 2^2x^3 + 5 \cdot 2x^4 - x^5,$$

which simplifies to

$$(2-x)^5 = -x^5 + 10x^4 - 40x^3 + 80x^2 - 80x + 32.$$

C THE BINOMIAL THEOREM

C.1 EVALUATING FACTORIALS WITHOUT A CALCULATOR

Ex 26: Evaluate:

$$3! = 6.$$

Answer:

$$3! = 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 6$$

Ex 27: Evaluate:

$$4! = 24$$

Answer:

$$4! = 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 24$$

Ex 28: Evaluate:

$$5! = 120$$

Answer:

$$5! = 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 120$$

Ex 29: Evaluate:

$$6! = 720$$

Answer:

$$6! = 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 720$$

C.2 EVALUATING FACTORIALS WITH A CALCULATOR



Ex 30: Evaluate:

$$7! = 5040$$

Answer: Enter 7! in the calculator.



Ex 31: Evaluate:

$$\frac{8!}{3!} = 6720$$

Answer: Enter $\frac{8!}{3!}$ in the calculator.



Ex 32: Evaluate:

$$\frac{9!}{3!6!} = 84$$

Answer: Enter $\frac{9!}{3! \times 6!}$ in the calculator.



Ex 33: Evaluate:

$$\binom{20}{17} = 1140$$

Answer:

- $\binom{20}{17} = \frac{20!}{17!(20-17)!} = \frac{20!}{17!3!}$
- Enter $\frac{20!}{17!3!}$ in the calculator.



Ex 34: Evaluate:

$$\binom{15}{10} = 3003$$

Answer:

- $\binom{15}{10} = \frac{15!}{10!(15-10)!} = \frac{15!}{10!5!}$
- Enter $\frac{15!}{10!5!}$ in the calculator.

C.3 EXPRESSING PRODUCTS IN FACTORIAL FORM

Ex 35: Express in factorial form:

$$\frac{4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}{2 \times 1} = \frac{4!}{2!}$$

Answer:

$$\frac{4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}{2 \times 1} = \frac{4!}{2!}$$

Ex 36: Express in factorial form:

$$4 \times 3 = \frac{4!}{2!}$$

Answer:

$$4 \times 3 = \frac{4 \times 3 \times (2 \times 1)}{(2 \times 1)} = \frac{4!}{2!}$$

Ex 37: Express in factorial form:

$$\frac{5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}{3 \times 2 \times 1} = \boxed{\frac{5!}{3!}}$$

Answer:

$$\frac{5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}{3 \times 2 \times 1} = \frac{5!}{3!}$$

Ex 38: Express in factorial form:

$$5 \times 4 = \boxed{\frac{5!}{3!}}$$

Answer:

$$5 \times 4 = \frac{5 \times 4 \times (3 \times 2 \times 1)}{(3 \times 2 \times 1)} = \frac{5!}{3!}$$

Ex 39: Express in factorial form:

$$\frac{7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}{4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1} = \boxed{\frac{7!}{4!}}$$

Answer:

$$\frac{7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}{4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1} = \frac{7!}{4!}$$

Ex 40: Express in factorial form:

$$7 \times 6 \times 5 = \boxed{\frac{7!}{4!}}$$

Answer:

$$7 \times 6 \times 5 = \frac{7 \times 6 \times 5 \times (4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1)}{(4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1)} = \frac{7!}{4!}$$

C.4 EVALUATING FACTORIALS BY SIMPLIFICATION

Ex 41: Evaluate

$$\binom{5}{3} = \boxed{10}$$

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{5}{3} &= \frac{5!}{3!(5-3)!} \\ &= \frac{5!}{3!2!} \\ &= \frac{5 \times 4 \times \cancel{3} \times \cancel{2} \times \cancel{1}}{\cancel{3} \times \cancel{2} \times \cancel{1} \times 2 \times 1} \\ &= \frac{5 \times 4}{2 \times 1} \\ &= 10 \end{aligned}$$

Ex 42: Evaluate

$$\binom{6}{4} = \boxed{15}$$

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{6}{4} &= \frac{6!}{4!(6-4)!} \\ &= \frac{6!}{4!2!} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{6} \times \cancel{5} \times \cancel{4} \times \cancel{3} \times \cancel{2} \times \cancel{1}}{\cancel{4} \times \cancel{3} \times \cancel{2} \times \cancel{1} \times 2 \times 1} \\ &= \frac{6 \times 5}{2 \times 1} \\ &= 15 \end{aligned}$$

Ex 43: Evaluate

$$\binom{7}{2} = \boxed{21}$$

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{7}{2} &= \frac{7!}{2!(7-2)!} \\ &= \frac{7!}{2!5!} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{7} \times \cancel{6} \times \cancel{5} \times \cancel{4} \times \cancel{3} \times \cancel{2} \times \cancel{1}}{2 \times 1 \times \cancel{5} \times \cancel{4} \times \cancel{3} \times \cancel{2} \times \cancel{1}} \\ &= \frac{7 \times 6}{2 \times 1} \\ &= 21 \end{aligned}$$


Ex 44: Evaluate

$$\binom{7}{4} = \boxed{35}$$

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{7}{4} &= \frac{7!}{4!(7-4)!} \\ &= \frac{7!}{4!3!} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{7} \times \cancel{6} \times \cancel{5} \times \cancel{4} \times \cancel{3} \times \cancel{2} \times \cancel{1}}{\cancel{4} \times \cancel{3} \times \cancel{2} \times \cancel{1} \times 3 \times 2 \times 1} \\ &= \frac{7 \times 6 \times 5}{3 \times 2 \times 1} \\ &= \frac{7 \times \cancel{6} \times 5}{\cancel{6}} \\ &= 7 \times 5 \\ &= 35 \end{aligned}$$

C.5 FINDING A SPECIFIC TERM IN AN EXPANSION

Ex 45:  Find the coefficient of x^3 in the expansion of $(x-1)^6$.

$$\boxed{-20}$$

Answer: From the binomial theorem,

$$(x-1)^6 = \sum_{k=0}^6 \binom{6}{k} x^{6-k} (-1)^k.$$


The general term is

$$T_k = \binom{6}{k} x^{6-k} (-1)^k.$$

In this term, the power of x is $6 - k$. We want $6 - k = 3$, so $k = 3$. Thus the term in x^3 is

$$T_3 = \binom{6}{3} x^3 (-1)^3 = 20 \cdot x^3 \cdot (-1) = -20x^3.$$

So the coefficient of x^3 is -20 .

Ex 46:  Find the coefficient of x^5 in the expansion of $(2x + 3)^7$.

$$\boxed{6048}$$

Answer: From the binomial theorem,

$$(2x + 3)^7 = \sum_{k=0}^7 \binom{7}{k} (2x)^{7-k} 3^k$$

The general term is

$$T_k = \binom{7}{k} (2x)^{7-k} 3^k.$$

In this term, the power of x is $7 - k$. We want $7 - k = 5$, so $k = 2$. Thus the term in x^5 is

$$\begin{aligned} T_2 &= \binom{7}{2} (2x)^5 3^2 \\ &= \binom{7}{2} \cdot 2^5 \cdot 3^2 x^5 \\ &= 21 \cdot 32 \cdot 9 x^5 \\ &= 6048x^5 \end{aligned}$$

So the coefficient of x^5 is 6048.

Ex 47: Find the constant term (term independent of x) in the expansion of $\left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^6$.

$$\boxed{20}$$

Answer: From the binomial theorem,

$$\left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^6 = \sum_{k=0}^6 \binom{6}{k} x^{6-k} \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^k.$$

The general term is


$$\begin{aligned} T_k &= \binom{6}{k} x^{6-k} \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^k \\ &= \binom{6}{k} x^{6-k} \frac{1}{x^k} \\ &= \binom{6}{k} x^{6-k} x^{-k} \\ &= \binom{6}{k} x^{6-k-k} \\ &= \binom{6}{k} x^{6-2k} \end{aligned}$$

The exponent of x is $6 - 2k$. For the constant term we need $6 - 2k = 0$, so $k = 3$.

Thus the constant term is

$$\begin{aligned} T_3 &= \binom{6}{3} x^{6-2 \cdot 3} \\ &= \binom{6}{3} x^0 \\ &= 20 \end{aligned}$$

So the constant term in the expansion is 20.

Ex 48:  Find the coefficient of x^4 in the expansion of $(3x - 2)^7$.

$$\boxed{-22680}$$

Answer: From the binomial theorem,

$$(3x - 2)^7 = \sum_{k=0}^7 \binom{7}{k} (3x)^{7-k} (-2)^k.$$


The general term is

$$T_k = \binom{7}{k} (3x)^{7-k} (-2)^k.$$

In this term, the power of x is $7 - k$. We want $7 - k = 4$, so $k = 3$. Thus the term in x^4 is

$$\begin{aligned} T_3 &= \binom{7}{3} (3x)^4 (-2)^3 \\ &= \binom{7}{3} \cdot 3^4 \cdot (-2)^3 x^4 \\ &= 35 \cdot 81 \cdot (-8) x^4 \\ &= -22680x^4. \end{aligned}$$

So the coefficient of x^4 is -22680 .

Ex 49:  Find the constant term (term independent of x) in the expansion of $\left(2x - \frac{1}{x}\right)^6$.

$$\boxed{-160}$$

Answer: From the binomial theorem,

$$\left(2x - \frac{1}{x}\right)^6 = \sum_{k=0}^6 \binom{6}{k} (2x)^{6-k} \left(-\frac{1}{x}\right)^k.$$

The general term is

$$\begin{aligned} T_k &= \binom{6}{k} (2x)^{6-k} \left(-\frac{1}{x}\right)^k \\ &= \binom{6}{k} 2^{6-k} (-1)^k x^{6-k} x^{-k} \\ &= \binom{6}{k} 2^{6-k} (-1)^k x^{6-2k}. \end{aligned}$$

The exponent of x is $6 - 2k$. For the constant term we need $6 - 2k = 0$, so $k = 3$. Thus the constant term is

$$\begin{aligned} T_3 &= \binom{6}{3} 2^{6-3} (-1)^3 x^{6-2 \cdot 3} \\ &= \binom{6}{3} 2^3 (-1)^3 x^0 \\ &= 20 \cdot 8 \cdot (-1) \\ &= -160. \end{aligned}$$

So the constant term in the expansion is -160 .

C.6 DERIVING IDENTITIES FROM THE BINOMIAL THEOREM

Ex 50:

1. Show that

$$(1+x)^n = \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1}x + \binom{n}{2}x^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1}x^{n-1} + \binom{n}{n}x^n.$$

2. Hence deduce that:

$$(a) \quad \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} + \binom{n}{n} = 2^n$$

$$(b) \quad \binom{n}{0} - \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} - \dots + (-1)^n \binom{n}{n} = 0$$

Answer:

1. From the binomial theorem (with $a = 1$, $b = x$), we have

$$\begin{aligned} (1+x)^n &= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} 1^{n-k} x^k \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^k \\ &= \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1}x + \binom{n}{2}x^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{n}x^n \end{aligned}$$

2. (a) Substituting $x = 1$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} (1+1)^n &= \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1}1 + \binom{n}{2}1^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{n}1^n \\ 2^n &= \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} + \dots + \binom{n}{n} \end{aligned}$$

(b) Substituting $x = -1$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} (1-1)^n &= \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1}(-1) + \binom{n}{2}(-1)^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{n}(-1)^n \\ (0)^n &= \binom{n}{0} - \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} - \dots + (-1)^n \binom{n}{n} \\ 0 &= \binom{n}{0} - \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} - \dots + (-1)^n \binom{n}{n} \end{aligned}$$

Ex 51:

1. By differentiating the binomial expansion of $(1+x)^n$, show that

$$n(1+x)^{n-1} = \sum_{k=1}^n k \binom{n}{k} x^{k-1}.$$

2. Hence, deduce that:

$$\binom{n}{1} + 2\binom{n}{2} + 3\binom{n}{3} + \dots + n\binom{n}{n} = n2^{n-1}$$

Answer:

1. We start with the binomial expansion:

$$(1+x)^n = \binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1}x + \binom{n}{2}x^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{n}x^n$$

Differentiating both sides with respect to x :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(1+x)^n &= \frac{d}{dx} \left(\binom{n}{0} + \binom{n}{1}x + \binom{n}{2}x^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{n}x^n \right) \\ n(1+x)^{n-1} &= 0 + \binom{n}{1} + 2\binom{n}{2}x + 3\binom{n}{3}x^2 + \dots + n\binom{n}{n}x^{n-1} \\ n(1+x)^{n-1} &= \sum_{k=1}^n k \binom{n}{k} x^{k-1} \end{aligned}$$

2. To find the required sum, we substitute $x = 1$ into the identity from part (1):

$$\begin{aligned} n(1+1)^{n-1} &= \sum_{k=1}^n k \binom{n}{k} (1)^{k-1} \\ n2^{n-1} &= \binom{n}{1} + 2\binom{n}{2} + 3\binom{n}{3} + \dots + n\binom{n}{n} \end{aligned}$$