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Example 2: Simplify

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Example 2: Simplify

$$\frac{x + 2}{3x^2 + 6x} =$$

We can simplify a fraction if $P(x)$ and $D(x)$ have a common factor

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$$\frac{x + 2}{3x^2 + 6x} =$$

We can simplify a fraction if $P(x)$ and $D(x)$ have a common factor
To see if $P(x)$ and $D(x)$ have common factors, we need to write them
in ► factored form $P(x) = a \cdot (x - r_1) \cdot (x - r_2) \cdots (x - r_k)$

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The top is already in factored form.

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To factor the bottom, we can factor out $3x$

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$$\frac{x+2}{3x^2+6x} = \frac{\cancel{(x+2)}}{3x \cdot \cancel{(x+2)}} = \frac{1}{3x}$$

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Leaving us with: $\frac{x+2}{3x^2+6x} = \frac{1}{3x}$

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Note: $\frac{(x+2)}{(x+2)} = 1$ for $(x+2) \neq 0$, so this equality is true for $x \neq -2$