

Objective: Complete the square to find the center and radius of a circle given by an equation.

Warm Up:

Factor:

a. $x^2 - 16x + 15$

$(x-15)(x-1)$

b. $x^2 - 14x + 49$

$(x-7)(x-7)$

Steps for Completing the Square:

1. Be sure that the coefficient of the highest power is one. If it's not, factor each term by that value to create a leading coefficient of one.
2. Move the constant term to the right hand side.
3. Prepare to add the needed value to create the perfect square trinomial. Be sure to balance the equation.
4. To find the needed value for the perfect square trinomial, take half of the coefficient of the middle term, square it, and add that value to both sides of the equation.
5. Factor the perfect square trinomial.

Examples: Convert the general form circle equations to standard form. Label the center and radius.

a. $x^2 + y^2 - 8x + 6y - 24 = 0$

$x^2 - 8x + 16 + y^2 + 6y + 9 = 24 + 16 + 9$
 $\downarrow \quad \downarrow$
 $(-\frac{8}{2})^2 = 16 \quad (\frac{6}{2})^2 = 9$

$(x-8x+16) + (y^2+6y+9) = 49$

$(x-4)^2 + (y+3)^2 = 49$

center: $(4, -3)$

radius: 7

b. $6x^2 - 12x + 6y^2 + 36y = 36$

$6(x^2 - 2x + 1) + 6(y^2 + 6y + 9) = 36 + 6 + 54$
 $\downarrow \quad \downarrow$
 $(-\frac{2}{2})^2 = 1 \quad (\frac{6}{2})^2 = 9$

$\frac{6(x-1)^2 + 6(y+3)^2}{6} = \frac{96}{6}$

$(x-1)^2 + (y+3)^2 = 16$

center: $(1, -3)$

radius: 4

Examples: Convert the general form circle equations to standard form. Label the center and radius.

a. $24x + x^2 + 6y + y^2 + 137 = 0$

b. $x^2 + y^2 - 8x + 6y + 25 = 0$

$$(x^2 + \underline{24x} + \underline{144}) + (y^2 + \underline{6y} + \underline{9}) = -137 + \underline{144} + \underline{9}$$

$\swarrow \quad \searrow$
 $(\frac{24}{2})^2 = 144 \quad (\frac{6}{2})^2 = 9$

$$(x+12)^2 + (y+3)^2 = 16$$

center: $(-12, -3)$

radius: 4

$$(x^2 - \underline{8x} + \underline{16}) + (y^2 + \underline{6y} + \underline{9}) = -25 + \underline{16} + \underline{9}$$

$\swarrow \quad \searrow$
 $(\frac{-8}{2})^2 = 16 \quad (\frac{6}{2})^2 = 9$

$$(x-4)^2 + (y+3)^2 = 0$$

center: $(4, -3)$

radius: 0

* forms just a point! *

c. $8x + 32y + y^2 = -263 - x^2$

d. $364 + 28y + y^2 + x^2 = -26x$

$$(x^2 + \underline{8x} + \underline{16}) + (y^2 + \underline{32y} + \underline{256}) = -263 + \underline{16} + \underline{256}$$

$\swarrow \quad \searrow$
 $(\frac{8}{2})^2 = 16 \quad (\frac{32}{2})^2 = 256$

$$(x+4)^2 + (y+16)^2 = 9$$

center: $(-4, -16)$

radius: 3

$$(x^2 + \underline{26x} + \underline{169}) + (y^2 + \underline{28y} + \underline{196}) = -364 + \underline{169} + \underline{196}$$

$\swarrow \quad \searrow$
 $(\frac{26}{2})^2 = 169 \quad (\frac{28}{2})^2 = 196$

$$(x+13)^2 + (y+14)^2 = 1$$

center: $(-13, -14)$

radius: 1