

1/25/13 The zero-Product Property.

If $a \cdot b = 0$, then a or b must be zero.

Ex 1 $(x-1)(x+2) = 0$

Like "a" Like "b"

$$\begin{array}{r} x-1=0 \\ +1 \ +1 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{r} x+2=0 \\ -2 \ -2 \end{array}$$

$x = 1$	$x = -2$
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$$(x-3)(x+8) = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{r} x-3=0 \\ +3 \ +3 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{r} x+8=0 \\ -8 \ -8 \end{array}$$

$x = 3$	$x = -8$
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You just set each piece equal to zero to find out the value that will make each piece zero.